

Poindexter charges reduced

WASHINGTON (R) — A judge granted the request of special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh Tuesday to dismiss some of the most serious charges against former National Security Adviser John Poindexter in the Iran-contra case. But Judge Harold Greene ruled that the charges of theft of government property and fraud could not be brought against Poindexter again after his trial. Walsh asked last week that the charges be dropped to avoid delaying the trial over the use of sensitive national security secrets. Greene said it would not be fair to Poindexter to drop the charges now with the possibility of raising them again. The same problems with classified information forced Walsh to drop similar charges against Poindexter's former aide Oliver North. North was convicted on three lesser charges and was given a three-year suspended sentence last month. Poindexter, a retired navy admiral, was former President Ronald Reagan's national security adviser for nearly a year until he resigned when the scandal was disclosed on Nov. 25, 1986. Poindexter still faces separate charges of lying to Congress and obstructing the congressional Iran-contra investigation in his trial which is due to start this autumn.

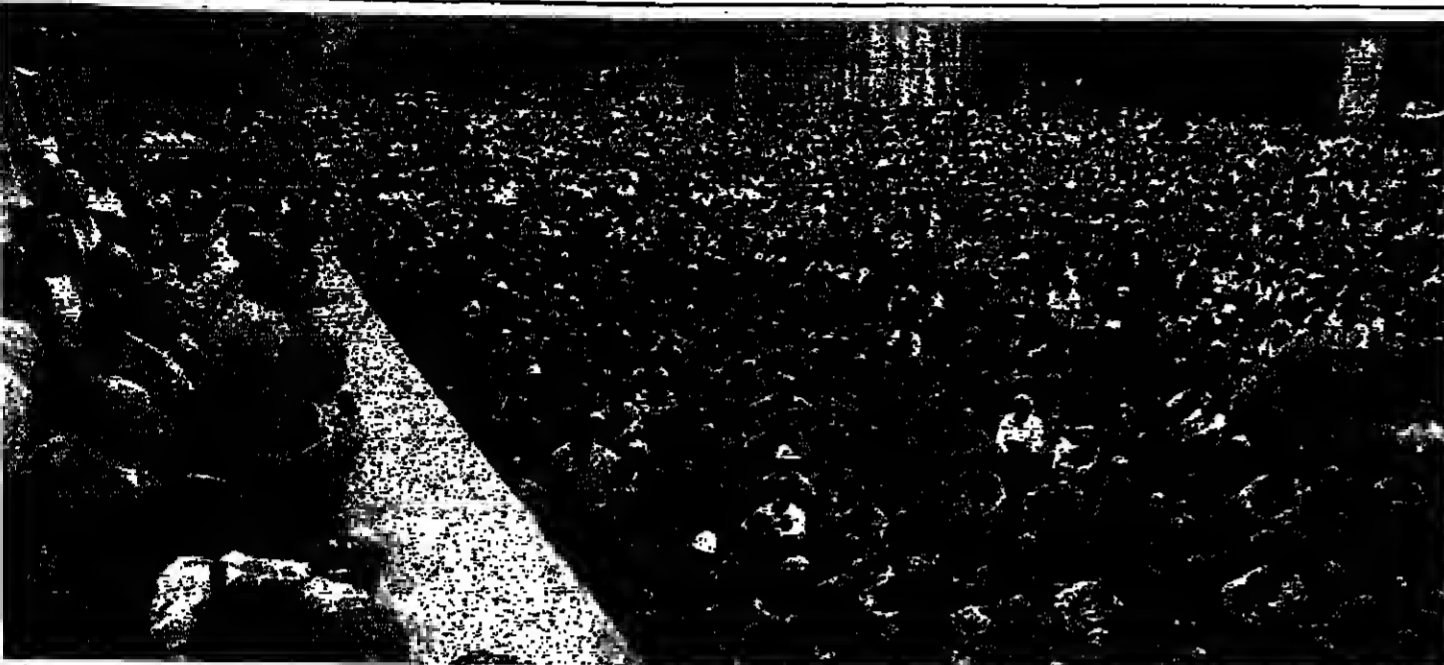
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Senior party officials and ministers address striking Soviet miners

Donbass miners end strikes, but Georgian feud simmers

OSKOW (Agencies) — Tens of thousands of striking coal miners returned to work Tuesday, apparently heralding an end to the most serious outbreak of industrial unrest to hit the Soviet Union since the early years of communist rule. But any relief in the Kremlin must have been tempered by a resurgence of nationalist unrest in the Donbass, capital of Soviet Georgia, where protesters roamed the streets after 20,000 people marched through the city to demand a republic's independence. A local government official in the Donbass, the main Soviet coal-producing area, said miners returned to work in the regional centre of Donetsk, apparently after receiving assurances from Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov of a major programme of action.

"The main square is completely empty. They all returned to work overnight," the official told Reuters by telephone from Donetsk. The city's central square has been the main assembly point for the striking miners. A local mining official confirmed that all mines in the Donbass region had resumed work from 8 a.m. (0400 GMT). But a trade union official in Moscow told Reuters that several pits elsewhere in the Donbass and in other parts of the country were still idle. The Kizbass region of west Siberia, where the strikes started two weeks ago, returned to work last week after winning major concessions. These included pledges of improved working conditions, huge supplies of food and consumer goods to the region, increased shift bonus payments and greater autonomy for the region. The authorities pledged that the same measures would apply to all the country's coalfields, but miners were determined that their own demands and grievances should be dealt with. Meanwhile a general strike gripped the capital of the Abkhazian enclave of Soviet Georgia, and the death toll from the republic's ethnic feud continued to rise, TASS reported Tuesday.

All public transit and half the commercial enterprises were shut down in the Black Sea resort town of Sukhumi, capital of Abkhazia, 1,425 kilometres south of Moscow, the official news agency reported. Twenty-one people have died in violence between Abkhazians and Georgians since July 15, TASS quoted Interior Ministry officials as saying. The death toll had been 19 Monday, and circumstances of the additional fatalities were not clear. Two people were arrested Monday in the Ochamchira section of Abkhazia on suspicion of having killed a police officer and a cadet last Saturday, the report said. The most recent reported death occurred Sunday, when an escapee from Zugdidi prison, together with his father and three brother, killed a police investiga-

tor in the Georgian village of Chubari, according to official reports. Roving bands of armed Georgians and Abkhazians have staged more than 50 attacks on police and other government installations, in many cases seizing weapons, according to official reports. Authorities have arrested 34 people on charges of taking part in the unrest and 221 on charges of violating a region-wide curfew, TASS reported. It said some 5,000 weapons have been seized. The unrest spilled over into the Georgian capital of Tbilisi Monday, as an estimated 20,000 people demonstrated against the killing of Georgians by Abkhazians. Soviet media reports have not specified the nationalities of each victim. Speakers at the rally Monday demanded independence for Georgia, one of 15 Soviet republics. On Tuesday, 30 students were staging a sit-in and three had started a hunger strike.

12 killed in missile attack on plane blamed on UNITA

SBON (Agencies) — Angolan rebels shot down a plane, killing 12 people, in an attack that could alter a recently agreed peace in the Portuguese news agency ISA said Tuesday. LUSA, quoting Angolan military sources, reported from Luanda that the Antonov-26 was hit by a round-to-air missile Sunday as it flew over an area of eastern Angola partially controlled by UNITA rebels. The plane, on a flight from Caxambu, attempted an emergency landing in a remote area about 40 kilometres from Caxambu but burst into flames, according to the sources. Six passengers, including a man and a teenager, survived the crash which occurred after the plane's engines were hit by a missile. LUSA quoted a military source as saying the passengers were all killed and government officials

said that Sunday, the rebels attacked and occupied the towns of Quimbele and Cumbira in northern Uige province close to the Zairean border. He also said UNITA forces ambushed vehicles in Lunda south province Monday, killing 16 people, and fired mortars over Kuito, the provincial capital of Bie, killing two or three people. Quimbele has been mentioned recently as a possible northern Angolan base for UNITA rebels, in addition to their southern Jamba stronghold. The downed plane was carrying a delegation of regional officials when it was hit, a military official in Luanda said. The government delegation apparently was en route way to Caxambu as part of a recent national programme to explain to provincial populations the terms of the June 22 agreement, the official said.

The source quoted by LUSA said the Angolan sources told LUSA the attack jeopardised a peace plan worked out between the leftist government and the right-wing National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) at an African summit in Zaire June 22. "Angola cannot allow UNITA to act with impunity," LUSA quoted a military source as saying. It said Angolan officials felt the government would be justified in ending talks with UNITA in Zaire on the details of the accord. A fresh round of discussions, focusing on how to monitor the shaky ceasefire, is due to open in Zaire next Monday. There was no immediate confirmation of the attack from Angola's official media and UNITA's Lisbon spokesmen were not available for comment. The source quoted by LUSA

Kabul denies role in attacks

KABUL (Agencies) — The Kabul government angrily denounced Tuesday rebel suggestions that it was responsible for a spate of bomb and rocket attacks that have killed dozens of people in the capital. "The government of Afghanistan totally refutes any kind of indication or claim that these attacks, that these rockets and bombs, are done by government authority," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said. Briefing reporters, he said: "The government does not kill civilians." Kabul has faced almost daily rocket attacks from the mountains surrounding the capital in recent weeks. On Saturday, six rockets killed 40 people, 20 of them when a single rocket hit a crowded bus station in the city centre. The week before a massive car bomb was detonated not far away, officially killing nine.

Tamil groups vow to pursue quest for independent state

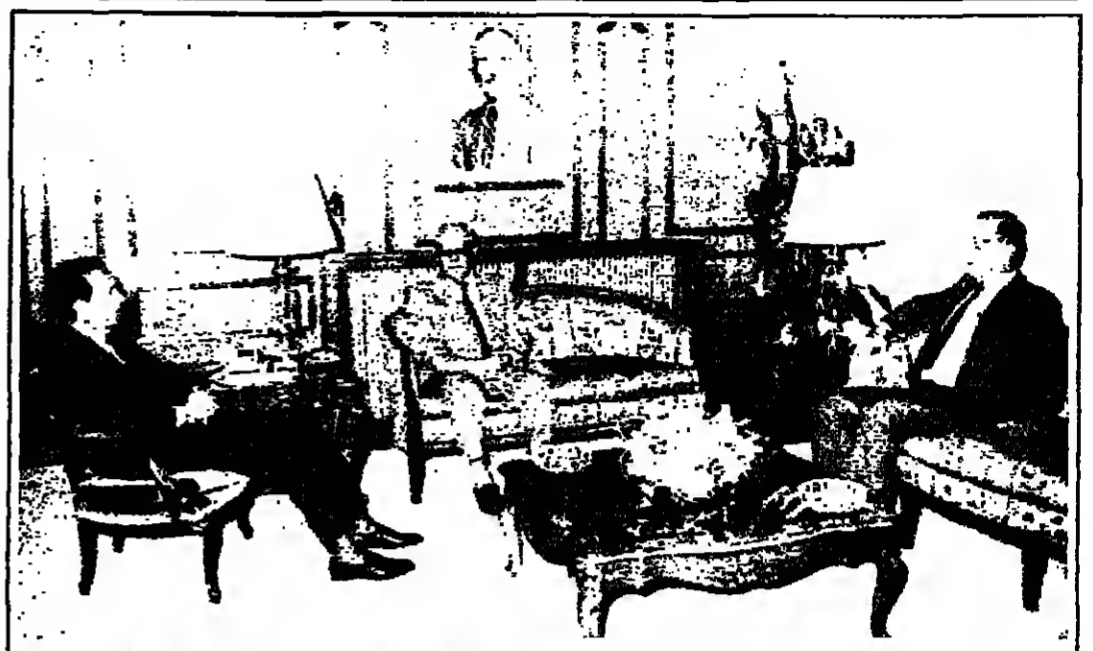
LOMBO (AP) — Three Tamil groups gearing up for the scheduled departure of Indian peacekeeping troops said Tuesday they would try to establish a state Tamil state in northeast Sri Lanka. The announcement by the groups, former rebels who joined the political process to control the northeastern provincial council, was a sharp rebuff President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government. Premadasa dispatched three senior ministers Monday to try to persuade the provincial council to support the government. He said his troops cannot leave Sri Lanka until they finish dismantling all groups and the northeastern council is allowed to exercise local autonomy. Meanwhile, about 40 wives and

children of Indian diplomats left Sri Lanka to avoid any trouble that might arise this weekend, the deadline set by Premadasa for the departure of Indian troops. About 40 other relatives of Indian diplomats and security staffers at the high commission, or embassy, returned to India last Sunday, according to a spokesman. "The situation is not very good and, in any case, they have their holidays (vacation)," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He said about 175 of the usual 300 embassy staffers and dependents remain in Colombo. About 40 to 50 embassy staffers left earlier, he said. A shadowy group called the Workers Action Front, believed to have links with Sinhalese extremists, called for a three-day

protest against the Indian presence starting Wednesday. Posters and leaflets appearing in Colombo Tuesday urged people to report to their jobs Wednesday but to refuse to work and join anti-India protests. The same group called a transport strike that crippled Colombo and the Sinhalese heartland from mid-June to mid-July. Indian soldiers, who started arriving in Sri Lanka two years ago, have been trying since then to disarm the largest Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The three Tamil groups once fought alongside the Tigers against the government and the Sinhalese ethnic majority. But have entered the political process and now have come under attack from the Tigers.

Israelis claim 1 more victim

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A 20-year-old Palestinian died Tuesday after being shot in the neck and head in the occupied Gaza Strip town of Rafah, setting off tyre-burning demonstrations in the town, reports said. Police confirmed, meanwhile, that two members of the paramilitary border police would be tried for killing a Palestinian near his house in the occupied West Bank village of Taamra last March. The charges were brought after the Haaretz newspaper reported that no investigations were carried out more than two months after the death of the 26-year-old farmer, despite army claims that the death was being probed. A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that no investigation was made immediately because of a misunderstanding between the army and border police over who should conduct the probe. In the Gaza Strip, Fawsi Mohammed Elidawil, 20, died of injuries suffered in a clash with soldiers a day earlier. The army confirmed the death of Elidawil, which brought to 520 the number of Palestinians who have died in clashes with Israelis during the uprising. As word of the death spread Tuesday, youths in Rafah's crowded Sabura district set up roadblocks and burned tyres in protest, reporters said. They said one man was wounded when soldiers opened fire to disperse the protesters. In the West Bank, two Palestinians were shot and wounded in a clash with soldiers in Ramallah and a third was hit in the face and chest with 11 rubber-coated metal pellets used by troops to put down riots, hospital officials said. A 36-year-old Palestinian was stabbed by masked youths in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus as an alleged collaborator with Israeli authorities, reports said. He was reported in serious condition. Police spokesman Rafi Levi confirmed that charges would be brought against two border policemen in the killing of Salem Ismail Mubarak in the West Bank last March 30. Haaretz, which exposed the case, said Mubarak was a father of four who was plowing a field in the village near Bethlehem when youths involved in a clash with police fled into the field. Mubarak took cover, but emerged when he thought the incident was over. At that point, Haaretz said, he was shot in the head by a border policeman who then drove off, leaving Mubarak bleeding in the field. Haaretz quoted police officials as saying two police would be tried because, with the botched investigation, it was not possible to tell which man shot the victim. The army also confirmed Tuesday that four soldiers were given jail terms of up to four and one-half years for stealing from Arabs in the occupied Gaza Strip.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Tuesday confers with Egyptian Minister for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah in a meeting

attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Annah (Petra photo)

Sharif Zaid receives visiting Egyptian minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker met in his office Tuesday with visiting Egyptian Minister for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah and Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Annah. Topics related to closer cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in the light of resolutions taken by the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee were reviewed at the meeting. Also reviewed was the programme of the joint holding company that was set by the higher committee to supervise the implementation of

joint development and investment schemes in both countries. Makramallah is leading a team of experts for the holding company's general assembly meeting now taking place in Amman. According to Ministry of Industry and Trade officials, the company holds 20 per cent of the total capital of the lean meat project to be set up in Egypt and is in charge of projects in both countries to produce agricultural seeds and a fishing industry in Jordan (see page 6).

U.S. effectively recognised State of Palestine — PLO

LONDON (Agencies) — The man who heads the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) team in official talks with the United States was quoted Tuesday as saying Washington had effectively recognised the organisation as a provisional government. Yasser Abed Rabbo, quoted by the London-based Saudi newspaper Shargh Al Awsat, said the talks "indicate a real and actual American recognition that the PLO has the right to speak for the Palestinian people and express their wishes." He said they were "based on the Stockholm deal under which America agreed to a dialogue with PLO Executive Committee as a representative of the provisional government of the State of Palestine."

Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, heads a three-member PLO team in a dialogue with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau. The dialogue began last year after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, at a Geneva news conference, renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to live in peace and security. Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Anderson said at the time that Arafat's statement was the result of nine months of often secret diplomacy by Stockholm. Abed Rabbo said the deal "included a commitment that the democratic State of Palestine, according to the expression proposed by the Americans themselves, will coexist with its

neighbours, including Israel." Elaborating on the newspaper interview, Abed Rabbo told Reuters in Tunis that there was a deal, but no formal agreement. He said the dialogue started on the basis of Arafat's Geneva statements, which the United States helped to draft, and the PLO therefore understood that Washington recognised implications of the statements. He said this included a "two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, under the State of Palestine would be created alongside Israel. The United States has, however, refused to recognise formally the independent Palestinian state declared by the PLO and has blocked the PLO's efforts to gain recognition as a provisional government at international organisations. The United States Monday welcomed an Israeli cabinet vote reaffirming its plan for elections in the occupied territories. State Department officials also disclosed that Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly, a key Middle East policymaker, would make his first official visit to the region, beginning on Aug. 1. "We welcome the Israeli cabinet reaffirmation of its May 14th proposal for elections and negotiations and see in this the commitment of the Israeli government to move forward a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict," State

Walesa pushes for Solidarity government

WARSAW (Agencies) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa urged Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski Tuesday to take "the only wise decision" and authorise the formation of a Solidarity government. But Walesa, in a statement delivered to Jaruzelski during talks on the formation of a new government, said he believed the Communist Party was not yet ready for the Solidarity opposition movement to take power. He said he would not stop Solidarity leaders accepting posts in a Communist-led government "on their own account" without committing the movement to a formal coalition. After the meeting with Jaruzelski, Walesa was expected to confer with Solidarity's parliamentary leaders in Warsaw. The trade union movement controls Poland's senate and 35 per cent of the lower chamber. The caucus of Solidarity lawmakers has scheduled a meeting

Wednesday morning to consider the Communist Party's pleas for a coalition. Some members have expressed interest, but others want Solidarity to remain an opposition force. Meanwhile, Communist Party members of parliament were meeting behind closed doors at central committee headquarters in Warsaw. Walesa said he told Jaruzelski that Poland's economic and social crisis demanded a decisive solution to the question of a new government following Solidarity's victory in last month's parliamentary elections. "The only wise decision would be to give the government to those forces which have the support of the majority of society," he said during the two-hour meeting at the Belvedere presidential palace. Only a Solidarity government would have a chance of convincing society that political liberalisation in Poland was irreversible



Lech Walesa

new government." This appeared to indicate that Jaruzelski would shortly name another Communist to head a new government if he decides to replace Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski. Wladyslaw Baka, the politburo economic overlord who on Monday accused Rakowski of economic mismanagement, and Ireneusz Sekula, deputy prime minister responsible for the economy, have been named as Communist contenders for the job. Answering reporters' questions, Walesa said Jaruzelski, the Communist Party chief who was elected president last week, did not specifically oppose the idea of a Solidarity government but favoured bringing Solidarity into a Communist-led grand coalition. "The president did not say anything definite on our proposal. He is still looking for a good solution," Walesa said. "Our philosophy, our attitudes towards the government are different."

هذه هي الأمل

Arafat under pressure to okay revived military struggle

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, in preparation for a major meeting of his Fateh movement, is fighting to hold back a growing body of Palestinian opinion in favour of escalating military struggle.

Arafat's aides and PLO officials from outside Fateh say they expect a major confrontation when hundreds of Fateh delegates gather next week, in either Tunis or Algiers, for the movement's first general congress since 1980.

"The leadership is still strong and it has logic on its side but that doesn't mean it won't face a forceful attack," Salah Khalaf, Arafat's deputy in Fateh, told Reuters in an interview Monday evening.

Khalaf, popularly known as Abu Iyad, said Arafat's critics argued that the PLO had gained nothing through the peace initiative it launched in Algiers last November.

In Algiers, the Palestine National Council (PNC) proclaimed a Palestinian state and accepted that this state would coexist with Israel.

One month later Arafat renounced "terrorism" and recognised Israel's right to exist. Fateh has since suspended all military operations against Israeli targets.

Abu Iyad said the critics wanted the PLO to harden its political stance and resume military operations outside the occupied territories.

Bassam Abu Sharif, a political adviser to Arafat, told Reuters Sunday that the PLO chairman was having great difficulty fend-

ing off appeals for a more violent response to Israel's attempts to put down the 15-month-old intifada.

"He's receiving delegations from inside the occupied territories who tell him 'don't worry about the money, don't worry about the food, just give us the guns'," he said.

He predicted that unless the peace process made more rapid progress the PLO could lose control and the intifada might degenerate into acts of random violence against Israelis.

"The moment will come when every Palestinian child takes a knife and kills an Israeli," one Fateh member said.

A senior PLO official from a non-Fateh faction said there had always been a sceptical wing in Fateh and this expanded and contracted according to perceptions of Arafat's performance.

"It shrank when Arafat went to France in May but at the moment it's larger than it has been for some time," he said.

The most prominent hardliners are three Central Committee members — Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political (foreign affairs) department, Rafik Natsheh (Abu Shaker), ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Mohammad Ghoneim (Abu Maher), the head of Fateh's mobilisation and organisation department.

Abu Iyad, who is firmly behind Arafat's line of moderation, said that in the debates he argued that the intifada was still young and that moderation had reaped benefits in the form of European support for the Palestinian cause

and changes in public opinion, even in the United States and Israel.

The United States opened a dialogue with the PLO last December but the Palestinians say it has not led to any substantial changes in U.S. policy.

Abu Iyad said even the moderates could not advocate restraint for ever without progress towards a Palestinian state.

"We don't support violence at this stage but I can't say that's for ever, I don't believe that. But we are not yet thinking of that, we have not yet given up hope of a just settlement without violence or weapons," he said.

"But the pressure — from inside and outside — is very much on the increase and in the Fateh congress we have many difficulties as a result of this," he added.

In its latest leaflet, the PLO-backed underground leadership of the uprising in the occupied territories urged Fateh to approve an escalation of the uprising at its congress, adding to the internal pressures.

"Take the political, practical and organisational decisions which meet the requirements to escalate the intifada, to reinforce it in the face of hostile conspiracies, especially the so-called Shamir plan which the U.S. administration is trying to beautify to extort concessions on behalf of the enemy."

The leaflet called for "days of especially distinguished struggle" to mark the Fateh meeting. Palestinian leader George Habash has warned that U.S. interests in the Middle East

would be in danger if Washington does not recognise Palestinian rights for a homeland, the Al Anhaa daily reported Tuesday.

Habash, who heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said: "The PLO will not be cheated by the American manoeuvres."

"The United States should know that its interests in the region will be in actual jeopardy if it fails to respond to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," he said in an interview in Tunis.

It was the second such warning in less than a week as PLO leaders voiced dissatisfaction with the pace of U.S. efforts to pressure Israel into a Palestinian settlement acceptable to the Arabs.

Al Anhaa quoted Habash as rejecting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories without an Israeli withdrawal or recognition of an eventual Palestinian state.

Habash accused Washington of trying to "divert the dialogue with the PLO away from its original objectives."

Arafat has also rejected Shamir's plan, saying he will not accept "semi-independence."

Habash said: "The PFLP has supported the dialogue between the PLO and the United States as an important achievement of the popular uprising."

"But the United States is now trying to divert the dialogue away from its purposes."

He did not elaborate, but said: "This explains the present impasse besetting the dialogue."



Beirut residents venture out to inspect damages caused by weeks of intermittent shelling.

Give peace a chance, Fahd urges Lebanese

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, one of three Arab heads of state charged with trying to resolve Lebanon's crisis, has urged all Lebanese to give their efforts a chance.

The king expressed "deep sorrow at the latest escalation in the security situation in Lebanon resulting in more innocent victims," said a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) on Tuesday.

An Arab summit in May gave King Fahd, King Hassan of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid six months to

mediate a settlement in Lebanon, wrecked by 14 years of violence.

The statement said King Fahd "appealed to all Lebanese to give a chance to peace efforts and the reestablishment of normal and constitutional life in the country."

At least 450 people have been killed and 1,700 wounded since army commander Michel Aoun declared a "war of liberation" in March to oust 40,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Repeated calls by the committee of Arab heads of state for observance of a ceasefire have

gone unheeded.

Amal-Hizbollah 'peace'

Lebanon's two rival Shi'ite Muslim factions have pledged in a joint communiqué issued in Tehran to end their 15-month-old feud which has killed more than 560 people, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

Fighting between Syrian-backed Amal and pro-Iranian Hizbollah broke out in early July after a five-month lull.

More 1,550 people have also been wounded since their com-

petition turned violent in April 1988.

The factions have been vying for dominance of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shi'ites, the country's largest sect.

The statement was published one day after Shi'ite leaders representing both factions ended a two-week visit to Iran to discuss the crisis in Lebanon.

IRNA said the Lebanese leaders also attended a ceremony in Tehran marking the end of 40 days of mourning after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, architect of the 1979 revolution.

Iranian media exhort all-out vote in presidential elections

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Iranian newspapers Tuesday called on Iranians to vote in presidential elections Friday "to open a new chapter in the history of the Islamic Republic" following the June 3 death of its founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

All predicted a landslide victory for the only real candidate, Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, 55, who has emerged as Iran's strongman since Khomeini died.

His only challenger is Abbas Sheibani, 58, a French-trained physician and parliament deputy who has no national political base.

"It is almost certain that Speaker Rafsanjani will win the election as the fifth president of

the Islamic republic," the Tehran Times daily said.

The English-language newspaper, which supports Rafsanjani, said: "It can be said beyond any doubt, that Mr. Rafsanjani is the best choice for the post."

"He has the qualifications... and his realistic approach to domestic, regional and international issues is known to all."

The radical Abar daily said that massive participation by Iran's estimated 25 million-strong electorate Friday was vital because "world oppressors have been trying to portray the Islamic republic as unstable and unable to last" following Khomeini's death.

Jomhuri Islami, another radical daily, stressed that "each vote is a bullet fired at the heart of Iran's enemies."

The election will be held along-

side a nationwide referendum on proposed constitutional reforms that will give the presidency greater powers than it has had since the 1979 revolution.

The reforms, aimed at eliminating competing power centres that have paralysed government for years, will scrap the post of prime minister and make the president head of government.

The Tehran Times noted: "July 28 will go down in the history of the Islamic republic as one of the most important events... because the nation will have a president with the power needed to tackle the issues."

Newspapers were so confident Rafsanjani will win that they have been speculating on the formation of his cabinet when he takes office next month, succeeding two-term incumbent Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Bashir likely to meet Garang

NAIROBI (AP) — Sudan's new military ruler has said he would probably meet with Sudanese rebel leader John Garang this week in Ethiopia, but a spokesman for Garang said Tuesday no such meeting had been discussed.

Sudanese leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir Monday said he would likely meet with the rebel leader while in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa for the annual Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit, according to the Sudanese Arab News Agency (SUNA) monitored in Nairobi.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who assumed the OAU chairmanship for the next year (see page 8), has agreed to help mediate an end to the conflict and also was expected to try and arrange a meeting between Garang and Bashir during the summit.

But rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) spokesman Deng Alor said the rebels had not been contacted about any such meeting. The SPLA is headquartered in Addis Ababa.

However, Deng did not rule out the possibility of talks between Garang and Bashir and denied a report in a Kuwaiti newspaper that Garang earlier this month rejected an invitation to meet with Bashir during the OAU summit.

Deng described as fabricated the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas's July 19 report that quoted Garang as laying out five conditions to be met before he would meet with Bashir.

"The points are not true. They were attributed to Dr. Garang but Garang never talked to any newspaper," said Deng in a telephone interview.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Two Somali ministers sacked

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre has fired two ministers accusing them of anti-government activities, the official Soma news agency said Monday. Major General Diaden Abdullahi Noor and Mohammad Abdulle Ba'die were charged with "activities inimical to the sovereignty, unity and security of the country." The same charge was brought against nine Islamic clergymen in 1986. They were sentenced to death but granted clemency earlier this year. Diaden Abdullahi was stripped of his rank and position on the ruling party's central committee. Soma gave no more details about the alleged crimes. Diplomats have said they do not know whether similar charges have been brought against Islamic clergymen whose arrests 11 days ago touched off violent riots in Mogadishu, in which the government said 23 people died.

Expelled Iranian student stole \$4 million

NICOSIA (AP) — A young Iranian and his mother stole jewellery and Persian carpets worth 300 million rials (\$4 million) from Tehran mansions in a four-month spree before they were caught, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The official agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the 23-year-old expelled university student identified only as "Ali Reza" raided the homes of wealthy Iranians in the fashionable north Tehran suburbs. The robbery spree began March 21, the Persian new year, and lasted until he was caught one night recently by a police patrol who spotted him carrying a small safe and a bundle of precious carpets, IRNA reported. "After his arrest and questioning, he confessed to more than 50 counts of theft," the agency reported. It said his mother helped him sell the stolen goods, which included jewellery, Persian carpets, video recorders, television sets and antiques. IRNA quoted detectives as saying Ali Reza was "very intelligent" and launched his brief career in crime after he had been expelled from an unidentified university. The agency did not elaborate.

Wounded Iranian diplomat back home

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian diplomat wounded in the assassination of a Kurdish rebel leader in Vienna two weeks ago returned to the Iranian capital Monday, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. Mahmood Jafari Saharoodi was accompanied by a team of Iranian doctors for the return trip from Austria, said IRNA. Saharoodi was wounded July 13 during the shooting death of Abdul Rahman Qassemolou, the 59-year-old leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), and two of his aides. The KDP blamed Iran for the assassination, saying Tehran lured him to his death by promising to negotiate a settlement to their long-running rebellion. Saharoodi was wounded in the mouth when guerrillas stormed the apartment during the second round of talks between Iranian diplomats and the Kurdish delegation.

N. Cyprus frees 82 Greek-Cypriot women

NICOSIA (R) — North Cyprus Tuesday freed 82 Greek-Cypriot women who were jailed after demonstrations that have jeopardised Cyprus unification talks. The women were among 108 people jailed for three days by a Turkish-Cypriot court last Saturday after the protest across the U.N.-controlled buffer zone dividing the island.

Ten men, including a Greek Orthodox bishop, were still in jail Tuesday morning after refusing to pay fines of up to 100 Cyprus pounds (\$220) each.

"The women's fines were paid but not on this side," a police officer told Reuters as the women, many carrying belongings in towels, were examined by a Turkish-Cypriot doctor with a

U.N. medical observer present.

A group of 10 teenage Greek-Cypriot girls were freed Monday. Chanting crowds of Turkish-Cypriots attacked a U.N. van carrying them from the prison to the buffer zone.

The Turkish republic of north Cyprus, recognised only by Turkey, freed the main group of 82 women just after midnight to minimise the risk of more incidents.

Several of the freed women said they had been reasonably well-treated in Nicosia central jail, overlooked by the Kyrenia mountain range.

They were seized during a protest last Wednesday to mark the 15th anniversary of Turkey's intervention in Cyprus.

Hakawati excluded from festival in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — A producer reaffirmed Monday his decision to cancel an appearance by a Palestinian theatre company at the New York Shakespeare Festival, but said he hoped to present it along with other productions dealing with the Palestinian situation within a year.

Joseph Papp, who is producer of the festival, decided last month to withdraw an offer to the Al Hakawati Palestinian Theatre Company of Jerusalem because of concern about the reactions of Jewish theatregoers.

"I live with my decision and my sensibilities, particularly those that relate to national and religious groups living in New York where my plays are presented," Papp said at a news conference. "If there had been an overwel-

lingly large Arabic theatre-going population living here, I would be just as sensitive to their beliefs and concerns as I am to Jews."

The six-person company was to have performed "The Story of Kufur Shamama" at the public theatre last week. The play tells of a 40-year search by a Palestinian man for residents of his village which was decimated by the 1948 war.

Papp met Monday with members of the American-Arab Relations Committee. Members of the committee called the meeting "cordial," but issued a statement saying Papp's decision assumed that "New York Jews are intolerant and have the power to suppress the first amendment rights of others."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Korua
15:45	Children's programmes
17:00	Alph
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo News Message
18:25	Local programme
18:30	Local programme
19:00	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:00	Local programme
22:25	Wrestling
23:10	Varieties programme
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:10	Loft story
18:40	Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
19:00	News in French
19:15	Le 14 d'Heure Procope
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	"You can't take it with you"
21:10	Poussin Films
22:40	News in English
23:10	Jack the Ripper
PRAYER TIMES	
04:57	Fajr
06:39	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:42	Dhuhr
16:23	'Asr
19:45	Maghrib
21:16	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terremata Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 771331	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Normal summer weather is expected and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly to moderate and seas calm.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman	Min./max. temp.	20 / 32	Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
Agaba		25 / 38		
Deserts		21 / 37	EMERGENCIES	
Jordan Valley		25 / 39		
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Agaba 38, Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Agaba 36 per cent.				
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS				
NIGHT DUTY				
AMMAN:				
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid		677436	Civil Defence Department	661111
Dr. Othman Mustafa		774024	Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Dr. Youssef Saeed		821311	Rescue	642412
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf		623520	Civil Defence Emergency	199
Firas pharmacy		691912	Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Ferdous pharmacy		778336	Fire Brigade	972228
Al Asmaa pharmacy		637033	Blood Bank	775121
Nafoush pharmacy		625672	Highway Police	843402
Al Salem pharmacy		636730	Traffic Police	896390
Yaacob pharmacy		649493	Public Security Department	630321
Shamsat pharmacy		637660	Hotel Complaints	698000
			Price Complaints	661176
			Water and Sewerage	897467
			Complaints	787467
			Amman Municipality	787111
			Complaints	787111
			Telephone Information	121
			Director's assistance	010230
			Overseas Calls	010230
			Central Amman Telephone	623101
			Repeats	623101
			Abdullah Telephone Repetitor	661101
			Jordan Television	774111
			Radio Jordan	680100
			Water Authority	693100
			Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
			Electric Power	642816
			Company	642412
			RJ Flight Information	06-532000
			Open Air Mail Airport	06-532000
			</	

Road accidents claim six lives

AMMAN (J.T.) — A family of four persons died in a road accident which occurred on the Irbid-Jerash Road Monday.

They were in a car that collided head on with another private car coming their way from the opposite direction, according to a report in the local press.

The man, Mazen Farid, 50, his German wife, 47, and their 13 and 14-year-old children were instantly killed, the report said.

Monday also witnessed the death of Husni Yousef and his 50-year-old mother when their vehicle collided with an oil tanker truck near Sahab, south east of here.

The report said that traffic was temporarily disrupted along the Amman-Sahab Road as a result of the accident which caused a large amount of cooking oil to be spilled on the road from the victims' pick-up truck.

In the Jerash district a huge fire broke out in a large area of land grown with plants and fruit trees, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

It said that fire engines were called out from Baqa'a, Ajloun and Irbid to help extinguish the fire, the cause of which has not been identified yet.

There were no reports of any casualties from the fire.

Syrian astronaut arrives for aerospace congress

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Syrian Air Force Lt. Col. Mohammad Faris, who participated in the Soyuz TM Soviet space mission, arrived in Amman Tuesday to take part in sixth world congress on aerospace education which began here Monday.

Faris and his Soviet colleagues in the space flight will address the conference on their experience in space.

Among those addressing the sessions Tuesday was Dr. Usama Al Kholy, senior advisor at the Kuwait Research Institute, who outlined aerospace education from kindergarten to university.

As the session was in progress a seminar was opened on women in aviation. Among the main speakers was Miss Dina Al Sawi, one of the earlier Egyptian pilots.



Princess Zein attends graduation

Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein Tuesday attends the graduation ceremony held at Zarqa State College to graduate 75 female students who have completed a nine-month training course in trades, such as sewing, textiles, hair-dressing and flower arrangement. Princess Zein

also opened the charitable bazaar held at the college. The exhibition includes clothing, embroidery, flowers, ceramic and artistic graphs. The photograph shows one of the graduates receiving a diploma from Princess Zein (Petra photo).

AACO begins study to set up unified distribution system for Arab airlines

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Amman based Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) Tuesday signed an agreement with an international consultancy firm to conduct a feasibility study on setting up a unified comprehensive distribution system for the Arab airlines.

The project would enable all travel offices and airlines in the Arab World to conduct reservations and booking procedures with great ease and would help provide better services, according to Mr. Adli Dajani, who signed the agreement.

Dajani, who signed for nine Arab airlines included in the AACO, said that the new system would be linked to one of the

international systems to provide even greater services to the passengers.

Under the agreement, the consultancy firm will take a maximum of 20 weeks to prepare the feasibility study which entails examining the markets of the nine airlines and contacting international companies specialised in comprehensive distribution systems to pave the way for the implementation of the project.

The agreement followed last week's talks in Amman by a technical committee set up by the AACO to discuss the execution of the scheme.

Dajani told the committee, which groups representatives of the Arab airlines, about the va-

rious advantages that would accrue from such a project which would help to achieve integration among Arab airlines in the face of strong competition by foreign companies.

Arab airlines involved in the project are: those of the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Libya, Kuwait, North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.

Representatives of these countries' airlines Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding committing them to refrain from holding any contacts with another consulting company within the 20-month period to give the opportunity to the firm which signed the agreement to present its final study.

Amin: 323 development projects being implemented in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Tuesday said that a total of 323 development projects, including 121 projects which have not been included in the 1986-1990 five-year development plan are under implementation now.

Amin estimated the total costs at JD 80.2 million, and noted that allocations for such projects amounted to only JD 72.2 million, of which JD 27.4 million are being funded through loans.

Amin said that JD 54.9 million are allocated for 232 projects in the social services sector, and that JD 31,500 will be spent on the setting up of a wildlife reserve in Wadi Al Mujib.

Amin pointed out that the educational sector account for JD 14.2 million. This amount will be spent on 73 projects. The municipal and village projects, including 32 new projects, account for JD 18.2 million. This amount includes JD 500,000 for the development of Amman Downtown Centre, JD 750,000 for traffic intersections, JD 300,000 for public gardens, and

JD 6.1 million for constructing new streets.

The health sector accounts for JD 3.8 million, which will be spent on 12 projects currently being carried out and five new projects.

The housing projects account for JD 10.8 million. These projects include the second and the third urban development projects in addition to the Marka project.

The higher education sector projects, totalling 15, including the establishment of an information bank, developing community college libraries, expanding the Faculty of Higher Studies at the University of Jordan, and completing the construction of the Physical Education Faculty premises.

Amin noted that an allocation of JD 15.8 million was made to carry out 67 infrastructure projects, including 18 projects, not contained in the five-year development plan.

The transport sector allocations amounted to JD 5.9 million, including JD 448,000 for the de-

velopment of Queen Alia International Airport facilities, JD 90,000 for maintenance of Madaba-Thiban Project, JD 90,000 for Nat-Um Al Rassas Road, JD 45,000 for Syagha-South Ghor Road, JD 45,000 for Abu Alanda-Sahab Road, in addition to JD 3,250,000 for the completion of Amman-Dead Sea Road.

The water and irrigation projects accounted for JD 5.5 million while the allocations of the energy and mineral resources sector amounted to JD 3.3 million.

The agricultural sector accounts for JD 2.2 million, divided among 20 projects, including afforestation, development of upland, pastures, fodders, protecting forests, production of veterinary vaccines, development of the Zarqa Basin, and developing animal wealth.

Al Amin pointed out that the Agricultural Credit Corporation has introduced a JD 4.5 million loan programme, whereby loans will be given to farmers to carry out land reforms, plant trees, improve rain-fed areas, develop animal wealth and apply the agricultural automation system.

Seminar deals with implementation of WHO guidelines on treatment plants

AMMAN (J.T.) — A working paper entitled compliance of effluents from different treatment plants with World Health Organisation (WHO) wastewater reuse guidelines was reviewed here Tuesday by delegates to a regional seminar on "re-use of treated effluents."

The working paper was presented to the five-day seminar by Dr. Saqer Al Salem from the Water Authority of Jordan (W.A.J.).

The seminar which is organised by WHO was opened by Health Minister Zuhair Malhas who outlined Jordan's endeavours to benefit from water after being treated at the country's 12 wastewater treatment plants.

A working paper entitled "application for World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines in developing countries" by Professor M.B. Pescod from the University of Newcastle, in the United Kingdom, was among the papers re-

viewed Monday by participants in the regional seminar on "re-use of treated effluents."

The participants also discussed three other working papers by delegates from Tunisia, Egypt and Kuwait dealing with the exploitation of treated water.

The participants, who represent 11 countries, will submit reports on their countries' experiments in recycling water for different uses and will study WHO's guidelines in this respect.



Exhibition of photos on badia opens

IRBID (J.T.) — An exhibition of photographs depicting the Jordanian badia was opened at Yarmouk University Tuesday by university Presi-

dent Mohammad Hawdan. On display for seven days are 60 photos that feature the badia population and their socio-economic life.

AGFUND grant to help Naser society's activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — A local charitable and voluntary society has acquired financial assistance from the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND) to help carry out community services and execute a programme for training local women in handicrafts and a variety of vocational programmes.

Mrs. Nawal Abu Rmeileh, president of Al Naser Women's Society and head of a local community centre said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that AGFUND's Chairman, Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz, agreed at a meeting held in Saudi Arabia recently to allocate a grant of \$80,000 to finance Al Naser centre's programmes.

Abu Rmeileh said that the project, which will be implemented

in 12 months, entails setting up facilities at the community centre in Naser for training local women in dressmaking, computer operation, typing, weaving, knitting, and catering at orphanage centres and other organisations.

The vocational training programmes will be carried out at a rented building which will be equipped with all training facilities and qualified staff, Abu Rmeileh noted.

Since its establishment in 1983, the local women's society at Naser district, east of Amman, has been providing community services to 250,000 people and has been seeking funds for expanding services to the local population, Abu Rmeileh added.

The women's society in East Amman commenced its voluntary services 20 years ago and has been concentrating on school buildings, health centres, women and child care centres as well as orphans, handicapped and needy people in the Naser district.

The Greater Amman Municipality and the Health Ministry has constantly cooperated with the society to carry out its humanitarian services and program-

mes, Abu Rmeileh explained. These programmes, she added, has benefited people in Jabal Al Naser, Hunkien, Alja, Manara, Hamdan and the Prince Hassan Refugee Camp — all of which are districts around Al Naser.

Abu Rmeileh said that the Naser centre had been organising limited numbers of courses to train women in handicrafts and succeeded in turning out 500 young women who received training in dress making, secretarial work and hair dressing.

Referring to charitable activities, Abu Rmeileh said that the society has paid for the education of orphan students at community colleges and schools, and provided lump sum financial assistance to needy families in the Naser area. It also launches campaigns to raise funds needed for blind girls' education. Altogether JD 20,000 has been spent on these projects since 1983, Abu Rmeileh added.

She expressed hope that the AGFUND assistance will contribute to the development of the society and benefit the local community in Al Naser district.

Assad to announce details on raising university admissions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad will hold a press conference Saturday to give details about prospects of increasing the number of students to be admitted to the four Jordanian universities in the coming academic year.

The minister is also expected to outline the ministry's policy with regards to the establishment of two private universities in Jordan which was earlier endorsed by the Council of Ministers.

Assad announced the news conference Saturday after attending a meeting of the Council of Higher Education Monday during which all matters relating to higher education in Jordan were discussed.

Last year, the four universities — the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Mu'ta University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology — admitted a total of 4,341 under-



Nassereddin Al Assad

graduate and 1855 post-graduate students in all fields of specialisations.

Normally, application for seats at these universities, is made through post offices around the country, and takes place after the announcement of the Tawjili

results. The results have now been announced and it was known that 63.9 per cent of a total of 88,000 students have passed the examination, many of whom will be applying for seats at Jordanian universities.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education Tuesday announced the results of students who sat in one or more subjects in Tawjili examinations in the pre-scholastic year.

Director of the ministry's Examinations Department Ahmad Taqi said that in the literary stream 12,373 students and in the scientific stream 4,587 students failed in a certain number of subjects for which they can sit for a repeat examination in the coming scholastic year.

Taqi earlier announced that those who failed the Tawjili examination altogether, can also take the 1989-1990 Tawjili examinations.



Conference on literary criticism continues

IRBID (J.T.) — A conference on literary criticism, which opened at Yarmouk University Monday, reviewed in its Tuesday sessions a number of working papers by eight critics from Jordan and

universities in the Arab World. Deans of colleges and a group of intellectuals and writers attended the session.

Cairo meeting to discuss linking Arab national grids with Europe

CAIRO (J.T.) — Technicians and experts in power generation and distribution from Jordan and four other Middle Eastern countries will meet in Cairo towards the end of the coming month to study a plan for linking the Arab grids with those of Europe through Turkey.

The announcement was made by Mr. Maher Abaza, Egypt's minister of electricity, who said that teams from the five countries are currently examining tender documents for a feasibility study which would be awarded to an international consultancy firm.

Once the project has been implemented, Abaza noted, less allocation would be made by the five countries on power projects, and the chance will be open for the Arab networks to receive electric power from European grids.

Abaza said that Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Turkey are involved in the project which would be partially financed by the Fed-dah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

The same five countries last January agreed to set up, for the first time, a power grid interconnection in the region.

The Turkish and Iraqi grids are already linked and Iraq is currently supplying parts of Turkey with electric power.

Jordan has been supplying parts of Syria with electric power and Jordan and Egypt are in the process of linking their national

grids through the Sinai peninsula. Abaza told the Associated Press in Ankara, as the talks were underway in January, that each of the five countries would finance the cost inside their own territory, while the head of the Turkish electricity authority was quoted by the agency as saying that the project would be completed in about two years.

Abaza said there were plans to extend the system to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates in the future.

Turkey set up a power connection network with Bulgaria in 1975 and the Soviet Union in 1979. It also started negotiations with Italy last year to set up a similar connection via Yugoslavia.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of photographs depicting various aspects of life in the Jordanian badia, at the Yarmouk University.

BAZAAR

- ★ The annual bazaar of the Al Nazzal Social Development Centre which includes handicrafts such as embroidery, artificial flowers, dresses, knitted wear, ornaments and children's toys.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Thamamul Thil" (Price of a Shadow) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

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مكتبة الأمل

Jordan Times

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Director General:
 DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:
 DR. WALEED M. SADI

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Shamir's plot against intifada

ALL this commotion about whether the Israeli government has been conducting negotiations with the PLO in Vienna or Jerusalem is not the heart of the matter. Everyone knows that Israel has been negotiating with the Palestinians and the PLO, whether by remote control or otherwise, ever since the eruption of the intifada. The denial of Israel's prime minister of ever having talked with PLO representatives is at best semantical. The most interesting aspect of this entire academic debate is the fact that there was a time when Israel made much noise about wanting to talk with the Arab side and that the refusal of the Arabs to sit around the negotiating table was the principal stumbling block in the way of resolving the Palestinian question and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. Now the situation has been reversed. The Palestinians are boasting about their negotiations with the Israelis while the Israeli government condemns even the thought of talking with its main belligerent party.

However, the most significant revelation coming out of all this commotion is that Israel is offering the Palestinians "semi-independence" at the end of the tunnel of negotiations and a period of autonomy. If this disclosure can be confirmed, it would mean that Israel is contemplating what has hitherto been anathema to its ideology. For it must be borne in mind that the offer of semi-independence is merely a negotiating position at the start of a long and tortuous process of negotiations. The art of negotiation, in which Israel is clearly a professional, dictates that negotiating positions must be amenable to improvements and augmentations along the road of talks and bargaining. Accordingly if Israel is willing to accept semi-independence at this initial stage, one may presume that it is prepared to alter and possibly improve this position as negotiations with the Palestinians get going.

Yet, knowing the real intentions and purposes of the Likud Party and its leader Yitzhak Shamir, one must presume that the offer of semi-independence, if confirmed, is at best an effort to lure the Palestinians to the negotiating table with a view to ending their uprising. It must have dawned on all interested parties that the economy of Israel is now in shambles with unemployment reaching unprecedented heights. The relationship between the deteriorating Israeli economy and the intifada has been established beyond a shadow of doubt. That is why the Israeli government must, to an unprecedented extent, seek to end the basic problem behind the collapsing Israeli economy. The offer of semi-independence, therefore, may constitute a desperate Israeli attempt to achieve just that objective.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic dailies on Tuesday gave a wide coverage of the statements given by the minister of finance and the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan concerning Jordan's economic and financial situation and current efforts to reform the national economy.

Al Ra'i daily said having secured the London and Paris Clubs approval for rescheduling part of the country's foreign debts, the Jordanian people should feel encouraged and optimistic about the government's steps to revitalize the economy. The paper noted that the two clubs' approval served as an endorsement of the government's sound and wise measures that should bring back the lost confidence. According to the paper the country has succeeded in accumulating large amounts of foreign exchange reserves at the Central Bank, and that the 10 to 11 year given to Jordan to pay back its debts is enough to enable the Jordanian people meet their commitments. But the paper said that every citizen has a serious responsibility to help this country which also hopes to acquire assistance from friendly and Arab states. The coming stage, the paper concluded, requires mutual confidence between the people and government and close cooperation towards revitalising the national economy and bolstering the country's financial position.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily comments on reported contacts between notable Palestinian personalities and the Israeli government over the future of the occupied Arab territories. Abdul Rahim Omar demands in his column that whatever is being discussed with the Shamir government should come out in the open and should be relayed to the Palestinian people who are involved in a struggle for freedom. Referring to the reports which said that Arafat had disclosed the meetings between the Palestinians and Shamir, he said that the Palestinian people have the right to know the facts about the so-called "semi-independence" and self-rule as proposed by Shamir to the Palestinian personalities. The writer also notes that the Likud has not cancelled its programme of establishing settlements, of not dealing with the PLO directly and of ruling out the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied Arab lands as demanded by the PLO. He says that Israel has no right to decide the future of the Palestinian people in the first place, and what is meant by the ongoing intifada is an end of Israel's occupation of Arab land where the Palestinians can have the sole right to determine their own future.

Savt Al Shabb daily commended the frank statements given to the press on Monday by the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan and the minister of finance. The paper said that the two officials have shed light on the economic crisis in Jordan, reported on Jordan's negotiations with the London and Paris Clubs on rescheduling the country's foreign debts and outlined measures designed to help the country regain its financial and monetary health. The paper said that the statements will no doubt put an end to all rumours and will counter all hostile campaigns directed against this country. Frank and clear policies on the part of the government and its agencies, the paper added, coupled with determined efforts on the part of the people of Jordan to boost the national economy would no doubt help end the crisis.

ECOLIGHT

Why invest in technology

EVERY time technology is discussed, eyebrows are raised in wonderment. Technology in Jordan? How could that be? How could a country like Jordan go into complicated atomic, avionic, spatial and sophisticated electronic industries? These are expensive ventures and only countries with a long heritage of research and huge wealth of laboratories may hope to venture into them.

Technology is not necessarily a world of robots, crazy scientists and enigmatic aura. It is like everything else, a line of production that can be mastered by relatively skilled and intelligent individuals. The process of production is phased out to simple linear steps that are organised in an efficient system.

When we talk about modern technology, we should remember a very important fact. The world at large is gradually becoming a "universal village." A computer that is labelled "U.S. made" could be made up of components produced in many countries. Internationally famous brand names are in effect marketing names, signifying large conglomerates. A production line could extend, thanks to modern efficient transportation and telecommunication regimes, across three or four continents.

Moreover, the emergence of economic regions necessitates for marketing purposes, the creation of regional centres. Singapore, for instance, caters for the ASEAN region and beyond. Bahrain or Dubai could serve as a regional centre for the Gulf. Jordan could also become such a centre for the east Mediterranean region.

Jordan is endowed with human skills that have diversified backgrounds. Yet, the industrial sector in Jordan does not make full use of this valuable asset. Most of Jordan's manufacturers produce homogeneous products that require low skills and rely heavily on imported capital equipment. Thus, our industry is operating at a relatively low capacity and at less competitive costs.

Therefore, Jordan has to restructure its industry in favour of its national economic objectives. These are the alleviation of unemployment and the enhancement of exports. Technological industry of small and medium scale is compatible with the labour market and the need to export.

Right now, the cost structure in Jordan is very competitive. Facilities are available in abundance. Many international industries can benefit from this situation by using Jordan as a manufacturing, assembly, storage and maintenance centre. This way they can guarantee a good share of the market, good service and accessibility to one of the fastest expanding markets in the world.

Technology is not manufacturing alone. It is also a host of services which Jordan can offer with efficiency. Our research and development institutes, utilities and services and the air of tolerance and continuity are main features of the country's hidden wealth. Technology for Jordan is not merely an ambition, it is the best opportunity.

The above rationale explains the importance of Jordanian technology groups.

The road to economic salvation in Jordan could be hidden in technology ventures. Dollars and dinars alone do not make the future.

By Jawad Anani

Bush defines a more modest role for U.S. in Europe: First among equals

By James M. Markham

PARIS — With the European agenda shifting rapidly away from military matters and toward economic issues, President Bush has over the last three months defined a more modest role for the United States on this side of the Atlantic: merely first among equals.

In Brussels in May and again last week in the Netherlands, Mr. Bush started and delighted the allies by voicing unequivocal support for Western European economic and military integration that in the long run implies a certain U.S. disengagement from the continent.

In a speech in the Dutch city of Leiden July 17, Mr. Bush said: "Let me say clearly a stronger Europe, a more united Europe, is good for my country. And it's a development we welcome, a natural evolution within our alliance, the product of true partnership 40 years in the making."

Past U.S. presidents have espoused the ideals of European unity, but none with Mr. Bush's evident conviction. His predecessors balked when increased European cooperation seemed to challenge America's pre-eminent position in the Atlantic alliance.

By contrast, Mr. Bush in Leiden pointedly saluted the revival of the nine-nation Western European Union, a security and defence organisation that Pentagon officials have sometimes viewed as a European Trojan horse at NATO's gates.

Moreover, in a passage that will not have escaped notice in Moscow, Mr. Bush encouraged Britain and France to sustain ambitious buildups of their independent nuclear deterrents.

As U.S. nuclear presence in Europe shrinks, Britain and France are nicely positioned to fill the strategic gaps on the rungs of deterrence doctrine. Rather deftly, Mr. Bush has opened the traditional U.S. method of dealing with a thorny alliance question — "burden sharing." Instead of railing at the allies for not

doing enough, he has acquiesced in giving them the lead.

In the struggle to nourish and stabilise democracies in Eastern Europe, the weapons increasingly will be economic, not military. And here the wealthy Western Europeans — notably the go-ahead West Germans — are better poised to exercise influence in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany than is the United States.

By according to the idea that the EC should coordinate food aid to Poland and serves as a policy clearing-house on Eastern Europe, Mr. Bush went along with an approach that, said a cabinet-level official in Bonn, "depoliticised" the issue at the seven-nation economic summit meeting here.

"The Russians would have never accepted the Americans being in front on Eastern Europe, and we didn't want to be out in front either," said the West German official, a representative of the Western nation that is by far the most deeply enmeshed in the economics and politics of Eastern Europe.

One of the most evident strands of Mr. Bush's emerging European policy is the assignment of a pivotal role to West Germany, whose economic might more than compensates for its nonnuclear status. Yet West Germany is meant to play this role embedded in the community, not wandering alone into Central Europe.

A human component of the Bush policy is a clear fascination and respect for President Francois Mitterrand, who since his visit to Mr. Bush in Kennebunkport, Maine, in May seems to be emerging as a trusted counselor on tricky matters like West Germany and the Soviet Union. The French president, moreover, seems to savor Mr. Bush's experience and has been nonideological about foreign policy. "Like Gorbachev in the Soviet Union, Mr. Bush is an American presi-

dent of a new epoch," a leading Mitterrand aide said. "I think his way of defending American interests is more indirect and subtle, and it will prove to be more efficient and avoid useless battles among ourselves."

Somewhat downgraded in this revised scheme of things is Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain. Her habit of stridently lecturing the world sat well with the ideological Ronald Reagan, but it sometimes seems to jar his more pragmatic successor.

At a more profound level, though, Mrs. Thatcher's aloofness to European economic and political integration puts her at odds not just with her continental partners but with the spirit of the Bush policy.

The tack of history has eased Mr. Bush's task. For the first time since the end of World War II, the Atlantic alliance is wrestling out with the military threat posed by the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, but with the dangers and opportunities posed by the unraveling of Communist economies and political systems.

Mr. Bush has made it plain that the United States be a player in the drama but will share the stage with allies who can aspire to leading roles — New York Times.

Japan makes half turn left

By Graham Earnshaw

Reuter

TOKYO — The message from Japanese voters to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was clear: adapt or die.

The party which has guided Japan to its present position as economic superpower during its 34-year unbroken hold on government suffered a humiliating defeat in Sunday's election for the upper house of parliament.

On Monday, Prime Minister Sosuke Uno announced his decision to resign to take responsibility for the disaster, but if the party isn't careful its troubles could just be beginning, political analysts say.

The LDP is on the defensive after a year of damaging scandals which have implicated virtually the entire LDP leadership, while the opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP), once dismissed as completely ineffective, is surging forward.

The LDP now must quickly find a new leader and put the financial and sex scandals of the past year behind it by convincing the country it is serious about cleaning up its act.

Time is running short and if it

fails the one-party rule of the past 34 years could be replaced by an effective two-party system.

Political analysts say the party may call a general election for the more powerful lower house as early as October. If so, it will face an invigorated opposition, eager to capitalise on its gains in the weekend polls.

"The LDP has had a hardening of the arteries in the past 15 years," said Kent Calder, a political scientist from Princeton University. "They'll find it difficult finding a really attractive leader to make the generational shift."

There are no obvious candidates to succeed Uno, who took over only last month after his disgraced predecessor Noboru Takeshita searched for several weeks to find a suitable candidate untouched by scandal.

Uno has immediately hit by allegations of sexual misconduct and was viewed even before the election defeat as a liability to the party.

The good news for the LDP is that the huge swing to the opposition, particularly the Japan Socialist Party, is seen by analysts as basically an expression of anti-LDP feeling, rather than a vote of confidence in the opposi-

tion's ability to rule the country. Many analysts are betting that voters who wanted to punish the LDP in this election will think twice before voting for the opposition next time.

"How they do in a general election depends on whether the new prime minister is able to carry out political reforms," said Kumiko Inoguchi, professor at Tokyo's Sophia University. "I think the LDP will do something."

The opposition, faced with its best shot at power in over 30 years, is still deeply divided over basic policy issues, including defence and nuclear power.

The JSP position has been vastly improved and the poor showing of other opposition parties will strengthen its hand in forthcoming talks on an opposition coalition.

LDP chances of regaining the initiative should not be discounted — they have money and influence on their side and the innate conservatism of the Japanese voter.

"The LDP is not going to meekly surrender power," said a report by the investment house Barclays de Zoete Wedd,

LETTERS

To the Editor:

YOU will probably receive many letters and comments about the Jerash Festival, but none more heartfelt than this one.

We have watched the Jerash Festival grow from 1983, when we first attended. It was our first experience with Arab hospitality — two words that we probably would have never put together if we had not come to Jordan — how potent are the misconceptions of the Arab World in the U.S.!

We are proud to count Jordanians and some of their Arab brethren among our friends: People whose spirit and deep sense of humanity and tradition are the antithesis of the stereotype that has been peddled abroad.

The Jerash Festival was the catalyst to our understanding of Jordan, the Arab World and its people. In '83, we watched the folklore groups perform, we marvelled at the handicrafts and we talked and sang and laughed with the wonderful students guides who represented your country so magnificently.

Tribute to Jerash Festival

We came to know the "behind the scenes" administrators and facilitators — Randa Atalla, Musa Hawa, Musa Ghannam, Rouba Bataineh and Lima Shangid — who have provided steadfast continuity for the Jerash Festival through the years. Their diligence, dedication and quiet competence have enriched the vision of Queen Noor and the Festival Higher Committee to allow the Jerash Festival to emerge as a truly important focal point for Jordanian and Arab culture and arts as well as a forum for exposure to foreign cultures.

This year, perhaps more than previous years, the Jerash Festival had "something for everyone." The programme included a broad cross section of indigenous culture while bringing important examples of Eastern and Western culture to the festival audiences.

In our mind, the opening ceremony — simple and straightforward — heralded the full maturity of the Jerash Festival. As the Royal helicopter glided slowly to its landing spot on the festival grounds, dozens of exuberant

children from the town of Jerash beat a wide, dusty path up the hill to see the wonderful flying machine and its radiant passenger.

All those kids, excited and smiling, were the finest escort a Queen could have! They raced each other down the rocky path to the outdoor stage with their Queen. They watched her light the torch of the festival and whistled loud and long when the orange flame brightened the sky in the Jerash Forum.

Those kids — Jordan's future — are the most important audience at the Jerash Festival. That they can come to Jerash to see the dances and hear the music of ancient generations; to see the crafts people and their art; to see the performers from worlds away — those kids have riches beyond value.

Now that a less favourable economic climate has come to Jordan, your countrymen should remember that the expressions of one's culture represents the most secure commodity of any nation. The Jerash Festival is, therefore, a vast treasury of cultural wealth,

deserving of protection, encouragement and expansion. As the Jerash Festival approaches its tenth year, its organisers and supporters can look back at their remarkable accomplishment: Ten years! But they should remember that great institutions are built over many more years than ten. The Jerash Festival has opened many windows on Arab culture and other cultures around the world. It must be defended against those with little vision who fail to see the value of culture and arts.

For ourselves, we look forward to returning to Jordan, to our friends in Amman and to the Jerash Festival. You have created an absolutely unique event in the festival, for which you deserve congratulations and thanks from all of us who have enjoyed the festival. We are hopeful that many more Americans and other foreigners in future generations will have the chance to come to the Jerash Festival and learn, as we did, of the Arab heart.

Patricia and Bill Snyder
 New York, USA.

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Before the operation. This girl will pay around \$2400 to have her nose re-modelled by a cosmetic surgeon.



Afterwards. Surgery has given the patient a new cleaner profile. A growing number of teenagers are having nose straightening operations, say doctors.

Suffering for sake of beauty

By Pamela Foster-Williams

ONDON — Dr. Dev Basra's patients usually arrive at his Harley Street surgery in chauffeur-driven Bentleys, Rolls Royces and Mercedes.

Over in New York, on Manhattan's smart Park Avenue, clients drive up for appointments with Dr. Sherrell Aston in stretch limousines and Lincoln Continentals.

Both doctors are leaders in the field of cosmetic surgery, and, as such, they report, have never seen better. In the U.S. alone, an estimated 750,000 people underwent plastic surgery last year — a 25 per cent increase over 1981.

Said Dr. Aston: "The volume is increased tremendously in the last five or six years. This is a youth oriented society. The aesthetic techniques are safer, operations are highly predictable and people know they have a good chance of achieving the kind of results they are hoping for, people just want to look better."

Among the newer techniques on offer are laser surgery to remove ugly birthmarks, and silicone cheek-bone implants, to give the face more structure. People with high cheek-bones age less quickly, says Dr. Basra, who is secretary of the British Association of Cosmetic Surgeons. They cut like a frame to support the skin. "They're a bit like a tent pole. Take it out and the whole thing collapses," he said.

Fuelling the cosmetic surgery boom are the dramatic strides made in developing the old techniques, say doctors. "Breast implants are now usually inserted behind the pectoral muscle instead of in front of it, and the safety of the silicon has been improved. The result is a more natural look."

Today's face-lifts are often a two-layer operation. "We do deep-layer face-lifting that tightens the underlying foundation rather than just pulling up the skin," said Dr. Aston. These days, row lines are tackled by making an incision through the muscle as well as through the skin. Previously, when the muscle was left in place, the lines returned every time the patient pulled a face. "A lot of people have forehead and row lifting to complement their face-lifting," said Dr. Aston.

Operations to correct "cauliflower ears" have been significant-

ly refined. "The ears can now be balanced on the face far more skilfully," said Dr. Basra. Meanwhile, thanks to developments in liposuction techniques, plastic surgeons can now use fat suction on the facial area with remarkable results. With three tiny incisions and a local anaesthetic Dr. Basra can suck out fat to give a better, cleaner chin, neck and jawline, he says. The whole operation takes just twenty minutes.

Not everyone can afford Harley Street and Park Avenue prices. Patients at both clinics tend to be wealthy, often travelling from all over the world to put themselves under the knife in the cause of beauty. But as better techniques are being developed, costs are coming down, report doctors.

"My patients tend to be very well-to-do, upper echelon people from Europe, South America and the western United States, but different surgeons have different prices, and there are some very good ones whose prices are significantly lower," said Dr. Aston.

"These days there are people from all walks of life having aesthetic surgery, including sales clerks, firemen and taxi drivers," he added.

At Dr. Basra's London surgery, an operation to re-model a nose will set you back \$2,400. Breast enlargement costs around \$2,600, breast reduction slightly more. But for just \$950 — the price of a package holiday — patients can have fat suction treatment to give them a new slim-line neck.

Lower costs better surgical techniques mean that more and more people are having cosmetic surgery at a younger age, say doctors.

A lift at 80? In New York, Dr. Aston receives dozens of requests from teenagers wanting to have rhinoplasties or nose surgery, he says.

A growing number of people are also having eyelid surgery and face-lifts earlier on because it looks better when they are still young and it lasts longer too since the tissue quality is better," he said. "On the other hand, a tremendous number of middle-aged and older people are having surgery because the population of the world is increasing in age."

In London, Dr. Basra recently gave a face-lift to an eighty-year-

old woman.

Both doctors regard themselves as artists as well as men of science. Before turning his attention to cosmetic surgery, Dr. Basra studied sculpture at the New York Academy of Art. His bronzes were exhibited all over the world. "I regard this work as restoring a painting," said the 47-year-old Indian-born doctor, who trained in his home town of Amritsar and later in Edinburgh.

"My work comes from the heart rather than the intellect. It is a work of passion. And my consuming passion is beauty."

Dr. Aston, also 47, says he sees cosmetic surgery as "the perfect combination of art and science." "The better aesthetic surgeons have a strongly developed aesthetic appreciation and sensitivity, an understanding of the finer things in life," he said. Blond, with strongly sculpted features, Dr. Aston takes care of his own physical appearance without resorting to the knife — he goes weight-training and jogging four times a week. He knew he wanted to be a cosmetic surgeon from the age of six, he says.

The computer has its role to play in aesthetic surgery. By feeding in the relevant data surgeons can see a three dimensional picture of the patient's skull up on the screen in front of them, helping them to plan the operation in detail before they go into the theatre. Dr. Aston, however, is wary of such developments. "The problem with computer graphics is that people using the computer may not be able to deliver the same thing in the operating room," he said. "Just because you can change the nose or lips of a person with the stylus of a computer doesn't necessarily mean you can come up with the same thing once you get into the operating theatre."

Collagen — widely hailed as a wonder-product for filling in wrinkles — is another area where some surgeons tread with caution. "Collagen is a substance which comes from the hide of a cow and can be injected into the skin to fill in lines and creases," said Dr. Aston. "The only trouble is that it is temporary, like hair colouring — and it has to be repeated about as often as hair colouring." At around \$250 for a 15 minute treatment, collagen is rather more expensive than a trip to the hairdresser.

As an alternative to collagen, a

growing number of surgeons favour fat grafting as a solution for wrinkles. The technique involves removing excess fat from a patient's hip and thigh areas and transferring it to the face to fill out lines brought on by old age.

Another transplant technique — this time with hair — has made huge strides since it was first developed in the mid 1950's. Doctors transfer small "plugs" of hair, each one still bearing a tiny piece of skin, from the rear of the head where the hair is thickest to the bald or thinning area on the top of the scalp. The Poutney Clinic in Hounslow, near London, which specialises in this type of operations, draws clients from all parts of the globe, from Bombay to Bahrain. Once a slow and costly business, the operation is now within the means of a far wider cross-section of people, say staff at the clinic. Often, visitors from abroad are treated and sent home the same day.

Vanity has its price, however, and most patients can expect to suffer bruising and swelling after surgery — and a good deal of anxiety before and after their appointment with the operating table. Said Dr. Basra: "If you've lived with a face for forty years you are going to experience a bit of a shock afterwards when you look at the mirror. You won't accept it at first, so it's no good trying to change a person's appearance so much that he'll be alarmed when he looks in the mirror and say 'God, who's that?'"

By the same token, Dr. Aston says he has learned to say no to some of his more fanciful patients. "There are always a few people who have unrealistic expectations or anatomical features which make it impossible to deliver what they have requested," he said. "If someone has a very thick, wide nose and wants a thin delicate nose it is impossible to deliver. If someone wants facial architecture which mimics a movie star or celebrity then that too is impossible to deliver."

"It sometimes happens that people will walk in and say they would like to have the nose, or maybe the eyes or the cheeks of, for example, Madonna," he added. "In those cases, I just have to tell them it is not possible, because of the anatomy they were given in the first place."

World News Link

Ferre poised to hijack fashion world

By Michela Wrong
Reuters

PARIS — Horror of horrors — an Italian newcomer looks set to steal the show during five days of French haute couture fashion collections which opened in Paris.

The bearded, barrel-shaped Gianfranco Ferre, who would not look amiss singing the final aria in an Italian opera, will be in the spotlight when he presents his first autumn and winter collection for classic French house Christian Dior also last week.

Ferre, a 44-year-old architect turned designer, was brought in by management in May to replace veteran stylist Marc Bohan, summarily dismissed after 28 years at Dior.

The decision to entrust one of France's most respected names to an Italian with his own label back home did not go unremarked and French purists will be sizing up Ferre's first attempt to judge if he is an heir worthy of the great Dior name.

Ferre is far from being the only foreigner among the 22 Paris-based designers presenting their

made-to-measure collections at venues scattered around the capital.

But critics say stylists like Norway's Per Spook, Chanel's West German genius Karl Lagerfeld and Japan's Hanae Mori have made their base in Paris and become honorific "French" designers in a way Ferre so far shows no sign of doing.

Set at astronomically high prices, the individually-tailored clothes paraded on the catwalks this week will have few members of the audience reaching for their cheque books. But the enormous influence the designers' ideas have on the market ensures an avid following among manufacturers and press.

Last week also saw the welcome return of Madame Gres, 85-year-old matriarch of French fashion, presenting her first collection in 18 months.

The intervention of millionaire Bernard Tapie, who first bought and then tried to get rid of Gres's fashion house, caused so much upheaval that she was unable to work.

Many feared she would never

again show a collection. But Japanese business group Yagi Tsusho's purchase of the house this spring has given her a new lease of life.

A Gres spokeswoman said the legendary stylist was too tired to cut the clothes herself and aide Francois Broca had pulled the show together working on her sketches and instructions.

If Gres appears to have survived the chill commercial wind sweeping through the rarefied fashion world, others have not been so lucky. Conservative style house Lanvin has been forced to excuse itself from the haute couture shows after young designer Maryll Lanvin quit in May.

Her abrupt departure, the result of a shakeup masterminded by new British shareholders Midland Bank, has left the 100-year-old house anxiously searching for a replacement.

Ferre, the interesting newcomer, and Gres, the legendary classicist, are both likely contenders for the "Golden Thimble" award, presented for the best haute couture at a ceremony in Paris's town hall.

They will be competing against young star Christian Lacroix, who has promised a colourful mixed and matched collection of contrasting fabrics and patterns with an emphasis on legs, and Lagerfeld, whose Chanel show will feature body-bugging silhouettes in sombre autumn colours.

A spokeswoman for Yves Saint Laurent said the man many regards as undisputed king of French fashion would follow his customary practice of boycotting the award-giving ceremony.

Saint Laurent can rest easy on his laurels, sure in the knowledge that shares in his fashion and perfumes business are steadily climbing on the Paris stock exchange.

The first-ever launch of shares in a Paris fashion house caused a stir earlier this month, with so many investors subscribing for stock the sale had to be postponed.

So whoever wins the Golden Thimble, Saint Laurent is certain to remain one of the most prestigious fashion names around.

Zacroix colours, fabrics

By Michela Wrong
Reuters

PARIS — French designer Christian Lacroix kicked off five days of autumn and winter fashion shows with a heady banquet of colour and fabric that broke all the rules.

His haute couture collection, staged in a sweltering hotel reception hall on the first day of the shows, showed the characteristic boldness that has made him so admired in the United States.

Lacroix juxtaposed glowing velvets with shiny satin pastels, rough brocade with glossy lame, tiny leopard prints with floral designs and formula pin-stripes with soft fur.

Skirts — this season short and tight — came in bottle green, rich brown and hot red velvets, worn under stiff jackets whose sleeves had been cut away and replaced with layers of sable, fox and beaver.

Collars were high and stately, cradling the head, while the accessories were Lacroix's favourite heavy crosses, chunky earrings and gold necklaces that looked as though they had been poured, still molten, around the neck.

Colour combinations broke all the rules. A cape came in lemon and maroon while a wool coat in shocking pink sported bright orange pockets and purple sleeves.

A mustard jacket with a purple velvet back, chocolate leather sleeves and red satin hood, worn over a flowered silk dress, was another typical mis-and-match outfit.

These individually tailored clothes, destined for some of the world's richest women, made no attempt to hide just how much money they had cost to make.

Jewelled bolero jackets glistened and winked while delicate gold patterns picked out on sleeves and shoulders were clearly the result of hours of painstaking work.

The grand finale — the wedding gown — was an explosion of



One of Gianfranco Ferre summer 1989 designs

The fight to save turtles

By Hasan Mroue
The Associated Press

ARA, Cyprus — Environmentalists from the United States, Europe and Cyprus are struggling to save the Mediterranean's endangered loggerhead and green turtles from unthinking tourists, wildlife predators and real estate developers.

They have turned a sandy strip at Lara on the island's western coast into a turtle conservation area protected from the annual invasion of 1 million tourists during the hatching season from June to August.

"Volunteers from Greece, England, Italy, the United States, Cyprus and other countries patrol the beach during the hatching season," said Andreas Demetropoulos, director of the government's fisheries department and a driving force behind the project.

Since the project was started 11 years ago at one of the turtles' main breeding grounds, Demetropoulos said as many as 4,000 young turtles are hatched and released into Mediterranean every year.

But he noted, "what's the good if we put 4,000 turtles into the sea while other countries catch them?"

The Lara team and environmental specialists from 12 Mediterranean nations met in Larnaca in early July to work out a joint campaign to protect the species.

They focused on the need to end fishing and tourism during the spawning season, reducing or even prohibiting the construction

of hotels, bars and other tourist facilities near breeding grounds and outlawing the sale of turtle flesh or shells.

The plan will be presented to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea at its next session in Greece in October.

Lara lies on the Akamas peninsula at the western end of the island, which environmentalists are campaigning to turn into a national nature reserve.

The peninsula is the last unspoiled area in the Greek Cypriot sector of the island, which has been divided since Turkey invaded and occupied the northern one-third of the country in 1974. "During the early days of the conservation project there was an estimated population of about 100 green turtles," said Myroslava Hadjichristoforos, one of the project's directors.

The loggerhead population was apparently larger, she said, "around 200."

The current number is not known. But the Lara team believes it is helping build up the species, although it will take years before they can confirm it.

"The unborn turtles face many hazards such as tourists trampling over the unmarked nests or wild animals who dig up the eggs and eat them," said Demetropoulos, who also is chairman of the Cyprus Wildlife Society.

The female turtles lay their eggs every two or three years. They crawl out of the sea at night, burying them in holes 4 to 9 metres deep, laboriously dig in

the sand with their flippers.

The lay as many as 100 eggs at a time every two weeks during the season. The eggs take about eight weeks to hatch. The thumb-sized baby turtles emerge at night and make for the surf in squiggling poses.

They instinctively head for the light of night-time phosphorescence from the waves.

But if tourist facilities are allowed on the breeding beaches, environmentalists say, the baby turtles can be lured by the lights from hotels or camp fires, go the wrong way and perish.

Crows, hawks and foxes that prowl most beaches during the breeding season add to the hazards the hatchlings face even before they are born.

The Lara volunteers patrol the breeding grounds during the season, covering known nests in wire mesh to keep out the foxes.



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Kuwait allows expatriates to set up own businesses

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait Monday enacted legislation permitting expatriates to set up small businesses without a Kuwaiti partner in a move aimed at boosting the economy and cracking down on fraud.

The decree amending Kuwait's 1980 commercial code was signed by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and made public in the Official Gazette.

According to the decree, expatriates can run their own "small businesses" and practice their crafts without going into partnership with a Kuwaiti.

Previously, non-Kuwaitis were not allowed to own more than 49 per cent of a business or invest their money in trading, foreign currencies or shares.

"Non-Kuwaitis who deposit their funds with local banks and financial institutions are also entitled to full ownership of a business," the decree added.

"Expatriates can appoint local

banks and finance houses to trade in foreign currencies and precious metals on their behalf," it said.

Expatriates make up almost two-thirds of Kuwait's 1.7 million population and their deposits comprise a substantial proportion of cash held by Kuwaiti banks.

Kuwaiti economists and businessmen have repeatedly demanded that expatriate holdings be made available in efforts to reactivate the economy.

An explanatory note attached to the law said it was enacted "in recognition of the role the expatriates play in Kuwait's economy and represents a reversal of the 1980 commercial law which sought to protect Kuwaiti businessmen against fierce com-

petition."

"Kuwait's financial sector will continue to suffer if the expatriate investment potential is ignored," it added.

The law also is intended to open the way for setting up trust funds to manage investments for both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis, financiers said.

Like other oil-exporting countries in the Gulf, Kuwait is seeking to diversify its economy and develop its financial institutions.

The decree will automatically cancel scores of cases pending before commercial courts.

It ruled that "all court cases resulting from disputes between non-Kuwaiti investors and their Kuwaiti partners or local exchange and investment companies will be dropped and charges refunded to the concerned parties."

Expatriates have been defrauded of millions of dinars



Jassem Al Khorafi

handed over to foreign exchange and investment companies in scams involving non-existent business ventures.

Kuwait's Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi, told the daily Al-Sayassah the new law "is intended to put an end to the abuse of the commercial law by those who fail to meet their commitments."

He added: "It will also prevent further losses resulting from money exchange and investment company dealings in foreign currencies, precious metals and international stock."

Lebanese banks survive confidence test

BEIRUT (R) — Panicky Beirutis who hurried to their banks to withdraw funds last week came away happy, cash in hand.

Like an oriental magic carpet which stays aloft when watchers expect it to fall, the Lebanese banking system seemed to have survived another test of confidence.

Although 14 years of civil war have left the economy reeling, most private bankers say there is no serious cause for concern about bank liquidity.

So does the central bank, which stands ready to prop up any bank or private business that gets into trouble and would further damage the economy if allowed to go under.

"Despite the war we still have a strong economy with a balance of payment surplus and huge foreign reserves of 4.5 billion of which 3.5 billion is in gold," a central bank official told Reuters.

"Banks are estimated to have foreign currency deposits of about \$2.8 billion of which around \$1 billion are let out (on loan).

Overall they have a very good liquidity ratio in foreign currencies by any local or international standard," he said.

"More than 70 per cent of the banks' deposits in Lebanese pounds are in treasury bills, so they can always meet their obligations," he added.

The official said the central bank has injected around \$30 million into Beirut banks since January — all against collateral. He did not elaborate because of Lebanon's banking secrecy laws.

A few banks, he said, were experiencing problems in withdrawals because of some bad loans made abroad. It was the good money from Lebanon which covered the bad money abroad.

"This understandably led to worries among depositors. But the losses are quite small in relation to the net assets of the banking system which is extremely liquid," he noted.

This cheerful picture contrasts with the extensive damage most of Lebanon's private sector has sustained during the war.

Many businessmen and industrialists are unable to repay loans or meet interest payments on time. In some cases, the collateral behind their borrowing has become devalued.

Financial experts say the banks in fact have had little choice but to roll over unpaid debts and interest year by year.

Unofficial estimates said about \$500 million have been withdrawn from Lebanon's banks to foreign ones since mid-March when the latest round of civil war flared.

Factories lie in ruins, trade has slumped and workers' remittances have dwindled. The balance of payments has held up mainly because of agricultural exports from areas away from the fighting.

Lebanon has about 83 commercial banks and the decline in trade led to a sharp drop in the volume of letters of credit, normally a major source of bank earnings.

The recent rush of withdrawals started after the Bank of France

said two Paris-based banks with links to Beirut's Banque Du Credit Populaire (BCP) and Lebanese Arab Bank had funding problems.

Some businessmen stopped accepting cheques drawn on the two banks and panic spread to depositors in other banks.

"We had a rush on withdrawals due to the rumours but we met all obligations," said an official of the Lebanese Arab Bank. Withdrawals were around five per cent of the bank's deposits, he said. BCP also paid depositors who wished to withdraw.

One banker who spoke to Reuters said that the country's banking sector was in danger from the current political deadlock and artillery duels across the city.

"If the present situation continues with no security and no political solution, there is a danger of a real collapse that would affect all sectors," he said.

The central bank and the banking association however have told the Lebanese public that the banks are not in danger and urged them to stop withdrawals.

Angry protests forces higher Israeli funding

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government approved a \$140 million emergency spending package Monday to counter economic stagnation and the worst unemployment in 20 years.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet, meeting in special session, decided the extra funds would be spent mainly on labour-intensive infrastructure projects and investment in industry.

A million Israelis held a two-hour general strike Sunday to protest against unemployment. The economy has been badly hit by the 19-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and 9.7 per cent of the workforce were without jobs in May.

The government will also provide aid to new industries or ailing ones which it believes can recover.

Zionist organisations have told the government that, if the high jobless rate persists, more Israelis will emigrate and fewer immigrants will come from the Soviet Union and Western countries.

The Israeli economy has shown no growth in 1989. Industrial production is falling after a sluggish 1.6 per cent increase in gross domestic product (GDP) last year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Africa appeals for more time, easier terms to repay debt

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African leaders opened a summit Monday deeply worried that they may never settle the continent's \$230 billion foreign debt.

"Chances for eventually meeting the ever-increasing debt burden are nil under the present circumstances," says a report prepared by the 49-member Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at a summit in the Ethiopian capital which ends Wednesday.

It revived a four-year-old call for an international conference on Africa's external debt, and previous proposals which include a 10-year suspension on debt repayments.

The report was requested by African heads of state at their summit last year after the failure to win 15 European creditor governments over to the idea of such a conference.

The debt of individual African countries is tiny compared with the sums owed by Brazil, the Third World's leading debtor with \$112 billion and Mexico, which Monday announced a milestone agreement on cutting \$53 billion it owes.

Collectively, the debt of the developing world is around \$1.3 trillion.

Africa's creditors argue that there are enough talks going on to tackle the problem and they favoured a case-by-case approach.

They were also wary that an international debt conference would set a precedent for collective bargaining which heavily indebted Latin American countries, with their greater economic clout, might try to exploit.

But the OAU still hopes to convene a debt conference and to

prepare for one has organised an international seminar on Africa's debt in Cairo from Aug. 28-30.

In addition to a 10-year moratorium on debt service payments the OAU hopes a conference would reach agreement on a total maximum level of debt service which African countries should subsequently be expected to pay, as a percentage of exports.

It reaffirmed previously announced targets for an international conference to convert all future official bilateral loans into grants or low-interest debt with repayments over 50 years.

The OAU report said that attempts to resolve Africa's debt crisis should reflect the fact that the continent was the world's poorest.

The OAU report said foreign debt remained a major constraint to African nation's attempts to revive economies sapped by mass poverty, food shortages, low productivity, weak productive capacity, backward technology and natural disasters.

Ministers review progress of joint Jordanian-Egyptian projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Procedures for the implementation of a lean meat and fodder project in Egypt were discussed here Tuesday by the general assembly of the holding company which was set up by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee last year to supervise the execution of joint projects in Egypt and Jordan.

The general assembly heard a report on the lean meat project which is to be set up on 5,200 acres in Egypt with a total capital of 46 million Egyptian pounds. A report on the project said that the holding company will own 20 per cent of the project's capital.

The report said that an agricultural project in produce seeds will be carried out in Egypt on a 500 acres and on 2,500 dunums of land in the Disi district in south east of Jordan.

The assembly urged the ministry of agriculture in Egypt to finalise a study on a fishing industry to be set up at Aqaba in southern Jordan.

The discussions also covered examination of the company's final accounts, the work of the company's board of directors in 1988 and the idea of launching joint Jordanian-Egyptian tourist investment projects.

But, according to a statement issued later, the assembly decided to refrain from committing itself to any tourist projects which it said should be left to the private



The general assembly of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company meets Tuesday under the chairmanship of Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Innab in the presence of Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Dr. Maurice Makramallah (Petra photo)

sector to carry out.

The statement said that the holding company will for the time being concentrate on projects for the production of food supplies to contribute to the two countries' efforts in ensuring food security and to reduce dependence on

foreign imports and save hard currency.

The assembly was held under the chairmanship of Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Innab and in the presence of Dr. Maurice Makramallah, the Egyptian minister of international coopera-

tion.

Innab underlined the importance of joint Arab ventures which aim to achieve food security and expressed hope that the holding company will help Jordan and Egypt achieve that goal.

ACC finance ministers meet in Baghdad today

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Ministers of finance from the four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries are due to meet here Wednesday to implement a joint strategy in economic, industrial and commercial fields.

The three-day meeting, according to an official announcement here, is in implementation of a resolution taken by the heads of state of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen at their Alexandria summit last month.

It said that the ministers will discuss a number of reports and studies submitted by each of the

four countries on their views concerning monetary, customs, investments, encouragements to their private sectors and the prospect of creating a joint financial market.

At their three-day meeting, the ministers are also expected to discuss coordination among the ACC countries in industry and the role of businessmen in the four states to contribute to development plans.

Jordan's Finance Minister Basel Jarrah arrived in Baghdad Tuesday morning to take part in the meeting.



Corason Aquino

Philippine economic recovery eludes poor

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino said Monday that the Philippines' new democracy had mainly helped the rich and asked congress to enact laws to spread the profits of economic recovery.

"Liberty is not a substitute for food," Aquino said in a state of the nation address during a joint session of congress.

Aquino, who took office after a revolt three years ago ended 20 years of authoritarian rule by Ferdinand Marcos, denounced corruption in government and promised to fire officials unless they mended their ways.

She portrayed a country that had achieved political stability and now had to ease widespread poverty to keep its hard-won democracy.

The economic recovery has restored old fortunes far more significantly than it has touched the lives of the vast majority of poor people," said Aquino, who

has survived five military coup attempts.

As she spoke, about 3,000 government workers demanding higher wages held a rally on a highway near the congress building.

Foreign diplomats, assessing Aquino's time in office, said she had achieved relative political stability but still needed to develop a weak national infrastructure, lure foreign investment and absorb recent large pledges of foreign aid.

Donor countries and agencies meeting in Tokyo earlier this month pledged \$3.5 billion in aid for the Philippines for the coming year.

Meanwhile, the landmark Mexican debt accord has fuelled Philippine hopes of being next in line for a U.S.-sponsored plan to cut Third World debt, Manila officials and foreign bankers have said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, July 25, 1989		Central Bank official rates	
U.S. dollar	Buy	573.0	579.0
Pound Sterling	Buy	931.6	940.9
Deutsche mark		302.5	305.5
Swiss franc		350.5	354.0
French franc		89.2	90.1
Japanese yen (for 100)		402.9	406.9
Dutch guilder		208.1	210.8
Swedish crown		88.5	89.4
Italian lira (for 100)		42.0	42.4
Belgian franc (for 10)		144.6	146.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6265/75	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1872/82	Canadian dollar
	1.8915/25	Deutsche marks
	2.1337/44	Dutch guilders
	1.6290/300	Swiss francs
	39.60/63	Belgian francs
	6.4100/200	French francs
	1365/1366	Italian lire
	142.28/88	Japanese yen
	6.4650/700	Swedish crowns
	6.9500/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.3525/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	372.75/373.20	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The share market closed lower in mixed trade ahead of Wednesday's release of June quarter company price index figures. The All Ordinaries index was down 1.1 at 1606.5.

TOKYO — Share prices soared to a record close in heavy trade for the first time in eight weeks after a partial purge of political jitters. The Nikkei rose 445.57 to 34,538.90.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended higher as local retail buyers led the market's direction. The Hang Seng index closed 34.48 up at 2,517.02.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed higher over a broad front and the Straits Times industrial index set a post-crash high of 1,371.37, up 12.47 from Monday's close.

BOMBAY — Share prices closed mixed in thin trading after stock exchange authorities raised margins on the sale of 14 leading scripts to 20 per cent from 12.5 per cent, brokers said.

FRANKFURT — Buoyed by steady demand for blue chips, shares shrugged off warnings of imminent profit-taking to close higher. The DAX index closed at 1,555.83, up 12.33.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly lower in listless trading. The all-share Swiss performance index fell 3.1 to close at 1,142.

PARIS — Prices ended virtually flat with an otherwise drowsy session enlivened only by hectic trading on Eurotunnel. The 50-share bourse indicator was down by 0.01 per cent.

LONDON — Shares moved higher in late afternoon trading as Wall Street made modest early gains. By 1446 GMT the FTSE index was 10.3 at 2,269.4.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips resumed their climb by late morning as the Dow rose 14 to 2,599 with gains outpacing declines by about seven to four.

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Indy cars get to be like bumper races

NEW YORK (AP) — Instead of Indy cars, maybe they should call them bumper cars and put Emerson Fittipaldi atop the point standings.

To wit:

— Al Unser Jr. bumps Fittipaldi and wins the Meadowlands Grand Prix last year.

— Little Al knocks aside Mario Andretti and wins this season's cart series opener at Long Beach.

— Fittipaldi and Little Al meet again, bumping wheels at the Indianapolis 500. Emmo wins, Unser finishes second even though his car is finished when it hits the wall.

— Mario gets bumped again, this time by Fittipaldi, and this time twice, on a street course in Detroit. Fittipaldi hangs on to win.

— Sunday in Toronto, Fittipaldi does it again, only this time to little Andretti. Michael wins, Emmo spins.

— Hey, what's going on here? "These incidents are a direct result of great competition, a lot of very good drivers in very good equipment," driver Danny Sullivan said.

"You make a move, the other driver tries to counter that move," little Al says. "Things happen. Nobody does it on purpose. Hey, we're all competitive. We're trying to win races out there."

Fittipaldi, the hottest if not bumpiest driver on the circuit this season, says, "We are professionals and we do not put each other in danger on purpose. But when you are driving close together and

you are trying to win, things can happen.

That's what happened Sunday in Canada.

The Brazilian, who has won four of the last seven races and finished second twice, tried to pass Andretti for the lead just two laps from the end.

Andretti, trying to end a 23-race winless streak, moved toward Fittipaldi. They bumped wheels and Fittipaldi wound up spinning. Michael said he never even saw Fittipaldi, who finished second.

"It's certainly not something anybody would plan on," Unser said. "In fact, it's disturbing to everyone. But these things didn't happen much before because there were so many guys running up front capable of winning. Now we've got a situation where there are more guys in contention later in the race."

Mario Andretti said the only good thing to say about the bumping is that "nobody's gotten hurt."

"You just hope that everybody uses their heads. You don't have much margin for error out there — not on the street courses and certainly not on the ovals where the speeds are so high."

"But the biggest thing," Andretti said, "is the level of competition. When you have two or three guys going for the lead late in the race, chances are things are going to happen."

That, he said, was good for racing "and not so good for the drivers. But that's the way it is now."



Archery and karate are two of the non-Olympic sports for which medals being awarded.

Third non-Olympic world games open

KARLSRUHE (INP) — More than 4,000 participants from 60 nations — from Argentina to Zimbabwe — are currently competing in the third World Games until the 30th July in Karlsruhe. This major sports event provides a forum for all those sports which are not carried out at the Olympic Games, including acrobatic cycling, karate, roller-skating, trampolining, water-skiing, tug-of-war, flipper-swimming, fist-ball, bodybuilding, and bowling. Medals are being awarded in 21 disciplines, and a non-less-attractive complementary programme will

present another 25 sport forms at the World Games.

The World Games were "invented" in Seoul in 1980 with the aim of supplementing the Olympic Games instead of competing with them. The Karlsruhe event will usher in a new era in these Games, which drew about 1,800 athletes to its first two gatherings in 1981 (in Santa Clara, California) and 1985 (in London). The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has given its official blessing to the Games and assumed their sponsorship, giving them an elevated status.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — One of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's greatest triumphs as his professional basketball career drew to a close had nothing to do with a skyhook or winning a game at the free throw line.

It was his rebound on the bottom line.

Although he was a very diligent player, Abdul-Jabbar's lack of attention to business off the court apparently led to such busted deals as investments in cattle feed.

When he sued Thomas Collins in 1986, claiming that the agent had squandered most of Abdul-Jabbar's money, the headlines summoned memories of other great athletes, such as former heavyweight champion Joe Louis, who wound up broke.

The Los Angeles Lakers' center, the National Basketball Association's all-time leading scorer and six-time most valuable player, was determined not to go out that way. And he didn't.

"I just had to deal with it like I was going to lose everything and start from scratch," said Abdul-Jabbar, 42, who retired this year after a record 20 seasons in the NBA. "Everything had to be totally restructured."

After breaking with Collins, Abdul-Jabbar, with a new attorney and accountant firm, developed a strategy for a financial comeback.

Last season, he signed a final, two-year contract with the Lakers worth \$3 million, the highest annual salary ever in a team sport.

Ex-rugby star sues on injury that left him crippled

VANCOUVER (CP) — A difference in size and experience between the two sides in a rugby scrum does not mean the players are mismatched, defence lawyer Rick Lindsay said Monday.

Former player Mark Hamstra, now 21, is suing the B.C. Rugby Union, Langley School board and coach Brian Rigby over an injury he received in 1986 while trying out for the B.C. under-19 team that left him a quadriplegic.

Hamstra alleges there was negligence in the running of the game because the two scrums were mismatched, leading to three collapses in succession.

Lindsay, representing Rigby, said what a player may lack in one area he can make up in another, with skill compensating for lack of size and desire for physical strength.

B.C. supreme court has been told that when one of the scrums collapsed, Hamstra's spinal cord was injured, leading to his disability.

Mr. Justice Harold Hollinrake, sitting alone after a jury was dismissed earlier because a witness referred to insurance coverage, is being asked only to determine liability.

If he finds for Hamstra, the amount of damages will be argued later. Hamstra's lawyer Russ Stanton has filed reports that he will be seeking nearly \$4 million.

Lindsay told the judge that Rigby, coach of Hamstra and some of the other players involved, was attending the match as a selector, not a coach.

He said Rigby, ranked in the top three or four rugby coaches in British Columbia, showed concern for his players and did not disregard their safety.

Rose, Giamatti lie low

COOPERSTOWN, New York (AP) — A year ago, then national league President A Bartlett Giamatti walked around the outfield of Doubleday field. This year as commissioner, he walked into a mess.

Johnny Bench, a Cincinnati star for 17 seasons, and Carl Yastrzemski, a member of the Boston Red Sox for 23 years, were inducted into the hall of fame Sunday.

Monday, the Reds played the Red Sox in the annual hall of fame game. It was supposed to be a great way to end the weekend — no pressure of winning or losing, just lots of fun and memories of a marvelous world series played in 1975.

The idea was to have Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose and Bench in Cooperstown for a reunion of the most popular Cincinnati players of all time. Thousands of Reds fans made the trip.

But Rose, facing allegations that he bet on Reds games, decided it was best if he stayed away.

Rose has sued baseball, charging the commissioner had prejudged his guilt — which could mean being banned for life from the game — and an impartial hearing was impossible.

The case is currently tied up in the Ohio courts and an injunction has temporarily blocked Giamatti from holding a hearing with Rose on the charges.

Rose decided his presence in Cooperstown Monday would cause a commotion and he might even run into Giamatti.

"I had no input in Mr. Rose not coming today," Giamatti said. It was his initiative. He thought this was Johnny Bench's weekend.

The induction of Bench and Yastrzemski certainly was the highlight of the weekend, but the undercurrent continued to be Pete Rose.

There were signs criticising Giamatti hanging from local pubs and a smattering of boos when he was introduced at the induction ceremonies Sunday.

All of this has been very difficult for Giamatti. He likes talking baseball and is a fan. He didn't want this.

Last season, he was able to take it all in as he moved from left field to right field at Doubleday field, talking with fans and players.

As a result of the Rose case, Giamatti must shy away from the public just as Rose has wilted from the press.

To make matters worse, the Reds were coming off a flurried game sweep by Montreal and have lost eight in a row to fall out of the National League West pennant race.

The Reds have been devastated by injuries and are currently playing without shortstop Barry Larkin, outfielder Paul O'Neill and reliever Rob Dibble. Along the way, just about every starter has missed some time and 12 players have been on the disabled list. They limped into Doubleday field when they could have used the day off to regroup.

The luring of a Kenyan boxer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Robert Wangila, an Olympic gold medalist for his native Kenya, has a simple explanation for his early problems as a professional fighter.

He didn't like American food. "In America, things are different, everything is different," Wangila said. "In Africa you just eat foods from the garden that are very fresh. That's why we're very strong. Here you get food that has stayed for three months."

Wangila, the first black African to win an Olympic boxing gold medal, lived on a diet of junk food after arriving in the United States last fall to begin his pro career.

Adjusting to the food and the new culture took its toll, and Wangila looked unimpressive in his first few pro fights.

"It was very hard for me to get settled here because it was a different culture," the 22-year-old said. "I didn't cook so I had to eat in restaurants, and I had many nutritional problems."

Now, however, Wangila is coming off his most impressive performance as a pro, a first round knockout earlier this month, and says he has made the adjustment to both life in America and professional boxing. He lives in an apartment in this desert gaming capital with his girlfriend and no longer feels like an outsider.

Now I'm getting used to living here, and I like it," he said. At first I didn't like it at all."

Wangila's road to the United States began in Seoul, where he devastated the welterweight division, knocking out all but one opponent to take an Olympic

gold medal. His performance didn't go unnoticed by Akbar Muhammad, a representative of promoter Bob Arum, who was in Seoul trying to line up pro deals with the top American fighters.

"When he splattered the Frenchman for the gold, I really started paying attention," recalled Muhammad. "I left my seat at that point and made my way to the back of the arena and gave him my card."

Muhammad said he tried to convince Wangila to fly directly to America, but the fighter instead went back to Kenya, where his coaches attempted to convince him not to turn pro.

Muhammad followed, however, and spent three weeks in Kenya, first trying to locate Wangila, then trying to persuade him that he should become a pro.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

EVERYTHING TELLS A STORY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 6
♥ Q J 8 6 3 2
♦ 4
♣ A 9 5

WEST EAST
♠ A 3 ♠ 8 4 2
♥ K 10 9 5 ♥ A 7 4
♦ Q K 7 6 3 ♦ Q J 5
♣ J 7 2 ♣ Q 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 7 5
♥ Q Void
♦ A 10 9 8 2
♣ K 10 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

We are often asked whether we think that artificial club systems are better than the more natural ones employed by the vast majority of players. In the hands of a top-flight pair, perhaps so. However, most of these methods are too involved for the average player, and they have some odd drawbacks that can be exploited by astute defenders. This hand was played in a national championship.

North-South were using the Precision Club System, in which opening bids of one in a suit other than

clubs showed a hand with fewer than 16 high-card points. West put this knowledge to good use to defeat a close contract.

In normal methods, South's one spade opening could be as strong as 20-21 points, so the auction would carry little information. However, West knew from South's opening bid that South could not have more than 15 HCP. Therefore, South had to have a highly distributional hand to jump to game after receiving only a simple raise.

A distributional hand meant ruffs somewhere. To cut down on that possibility, West elected to lead ace of spades and another. That proved to be deadly. Declarer could ruff only one diamond in dummy, so he had to concede two diamonds and a club in addition to the ace of trumps.

Note that, without a trump lead, declarer has plain sailing. Since he can get to ruff at least two diamonds in dummy, he will come home with his contract. Indeed, on some lines he might even end up with an overtrick.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"The insurance company wants to know HOW you backed into a traffic light that was 25 feet in the air."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KNACS

TOYBO

EPITOC

RANCOB



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHEEK NOBLE BESTOW INVADE
Answer: Another thing that people are always spilling—THE BEANS

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword

By Melvin Kanworthy



ACROSS

- 1 Superior et al.
- 6 Kind of meat
- 10 Gettysburg
- 14 Fatty liquid
- 15 Good grief!
- 16 Receptacle
- 17 River transports
- 19 Weight
- 20 Shipwreck
- 21 52
- 22 Higher than
- 23 Antidote
- 24 Mice and
- 25 mo.
- 27 Moon or tiger
- 31 Alliance acronym
- 32 Great check
- 34 Consumer
- 35 Letter carrier abbr.
- 36 No-nos
- 38 Fuzz
- 40 Thaw
- 42 Par
- 43 Off-season deluge
- 45 Red or White
- 46 Abolition
- 47 Tennis term
- 48 Bill's partner
- 49 Blaise's action?
- 50 Decline
- 52 Nurtured
- 55 Plentiful
- 56 Fruit
- 57 Baba's land: abbr.
- 58 Jail
- 63 Social
- 64 Miles, craft
- 65 Diner sign
- 67 Dash
- 68 Pictographic birds
- 69 Goldfish
- 70 Road rig
- 71 Biblical verb

DOWN

- 1 Aisle
- 2 To shelter
- 3 Deborah or Jean
- 4 Hibernal
- 5 TV host Tom
- 6 Canals
- 7 Three boots?
- 8 Capers
- 9 Postulate
- 10 Framing
- 11 Some disease
- 12 Less usual
- 13 Ogling ones
- 14 Sper
- 24 Corn bread
- 25 Depot abbr.
- 27 Greens' shot
- 28 Heb. lyre
- 29 Resort
- 30 Eat away
- 33 Cross as —
- 35 Wynn and
- 36 Asser
- 37 A Ringer
- 38 Numerical prefix
- 39 Eachway
- 41 Unruffled
- 44 List end
- 46 Rook
- 48 Southwest
- 51 Indiana
- 50 Lander
- 51 Dim
- 52 Accords
- 54 Shade castler
- 56 Being: Lat.
- 59 Center
- 60 "Citizen —"
- 61 Indiana
- 62 Hay, thermal
- 65 Blackbird

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



مكتبة الأمل

Cambodian talks collapse in Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — Talks among Cambodia's four warring factions broke down at the end of their first session Tuesday, with the resistance coalition saying it would not return to the negotiating table.

"The division is more serious than ever," resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said after he and his two allies met Vietnamese-backed Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

"There is no point coming back tomorrow... we said everything we need to say to each other," he added.

The four factions have been meeting in a bid to resolve internal Cambodian problems ahead of a French-sponsored, 20-nation peace conference this weekend.

Negotiations have been blocked by demands from the ultra-leftist Khmer Rouge for a share in running the country where an estimated one million people died during its previous rule from 1975 to 1979.

Hun Sen refuses to share power with the Khmer Rouge, who were ousted by Vietnamese troops in 1979.

France had earlier appealed to the four factions to settle their differences but diplomats gave the negotiations little chance of

succeeding.

At Tuesday's talks, in an 18th-century Chateau near Paris, Hun Sen faced his arch enemy Khieu Samphan, the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge leader.

Beside them at a large round table were resistance allies Sihanouk and former Cambodian Premier Son Sann.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, co-chairman of the weekend conference, said Cambodia had for 20 years been "plunged into a war which was not its own, the victim of a veritable genocide, invaded finally by a foreign army."

"The hour of peace has come," he told the factions.

Failure by the Cambodians to agree among themselves would render the outcome of the international conference meaningless, he added.

Intensified fighting

In Aranyaprathet, Thailand, Thai and Western sources said

fighting between Cambodian guerrillas and government troops had intensified along the Thai-Cambodian border in recent days.

Western analysts and Thai military officers in the border town of Aranyaprathet said fighting erupted in spots from the ruby mining area around Pailin in the south to an area opposite the Thai province of Surin in the north.

The Western analysts, who spoke to the AP on condition of not being identified, said several thousand Khmer Rouge guerrillas took part.

The Khmer Rouge is the strongest of the three guerrilla factions that have formed a coalition to challenge the government in Phnom Penh.

Last week, shelling believed to have been conducted by pro-Vietnamese troops forced the evacuation of nearly 40,000 refugees from a Khmer Rouge border refugee camp known as Site 8. Most have since returned to the sprawling encampment.

The Western analysts said Khmer Rouge guerrillas were trying to reassert their control over the rich ruby mining areas around Pailin.

Thatcher axes Howe, pumps new blood into her cabinet

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has executed the most dramatic cabinet shake-up of her 10-year rule, easing out Sir Geoffrey Howe as foreign secretary and bringing in rising Conservative stars to boost the party's flagging popularity.

Thatcher sent shock waves through British politics by prising Howe from the Foreign Office Monday and replacing him with relatively unknown John Major, previously number two to Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson.

Fighting a mounting challenge from the resurgent Labour Party, she also fired Transport Secretary Paul Channon and Social Services Secretary John Moore and rang the changes at the key ministries of education, trade, defence and environment.

But the big surprise was the dramatic rise of 46-year-old Major, catapulted into one of the highest offices in a move which political commentators said marked him out as 63-year-old Thatcher's designated successor.

"It was wholly unexpected,"

Major, the son of a circus trapeze artist, told a television interviewer.

"She invited me to sit down and offered me the job and I was delighted to accept."

He added: "There are tremendous opportunities to be taken in terms of East-West relationships where the field is changing very rapidly... and certainly in terms of Europe. I'd like to see us take a lead in Europe."

Major, who was raised in poverty in South London's run-down Brixton district, never went to university and worked as a building labourer before making a career in banking.

He entered parliament in the May 1979 general election which brought Thatcher to power and ousted a socialist Labour Party government.

The move of Howe, 62, to deputy prime minister was widely regarded as a demotion from one of the most prestigious jobs in the cabinet.

Thatcher also brought into the cabinet another member of the class of 1979, Christopher Patten, a rising star from the party's

liberal wing, as the new environment secretary.

Reflecting anxiety at the government's drop in the polls and its drubbing in elections for the European Parliament last month, Thatcher shifted Education Secretary Kenneth Baker to the chairmanship of the Conservative Party.

The two other cabinet ministers to go, Defence Secretary George Younger and Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young, said they were resigning to resume business careers.

Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King was named defence secretary, as an apparent reward after four years as Britain's top official in the embattled province.

Party chairman Peter Brooke was named Northern Ireland secretary.

Energy Secretary Cecil Parkinson, a Thatcher favourite whose political career was interrupted in a scandal over an extramarital liaison six years ago, was named the transport secretary.

The shake-ups, announced after Thatcher summoned government ministers to her office.

Yazov on landmark visit to Britain

LONDON (AP) — Soviet Defence Minister General Dmitri Yazov arrived Tuesday for a four-day visit to Britain, marking what British officials say is the first trip by a Soviet defence minister to a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) country since World War II.

Yazov, accompanied by six top army, naval and air force commanders, flew in from Moscow on an Aeroflot jet and was met by Soviet Ambassador Leonid Zamyatin.

He made no comments, and was driven directly from Heathrow Airport to the Defence Ministry headquarters in London for a formal welcome.

British Defence Secretary George Younger, who announced his resignation in a major cabinet shuffle by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Monday, was staying on until the end of the week to host Yazov.

"This is the beginning of an official, high level Soviet-British defence relationship," said a senior British official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Younger and Yazov were scheduled to hold a joint news conference Tuesday afternoon after several hours of talks and a meeting with Thatcher.

On Wednesday, Yazov was to tour a Royal Air Force base in Scotland, inspecting the Phantom and Tornado fighters that patrol NATO's northern air flank for Soviet intrusions, and the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible.

He will also visit Britain's main military academy, Sandhurst, near London, and a paratroop training base in southern England.

The trip is part of increased East-West military contacts under Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of reduced confrontation with the West.

It comes only two months after Britain expelled 11 Soviet diplomats and journalists, accusing them of spying. The Soviet Union retaliated by expelling 11 Britons.

The British official said talks with Yazov would focus on probing the Soviet Union's new defensive military strategy and seeking his views on U.S. President



Dmitri Yazov

George Bush's latest arms control proposals announced at the May NATO summit.

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency TASS quoted Yazov as saying before his departure that while big differences remained between London and Moscow, "there are real opportunities for expanding the sphere of our mutual understanding."

Yazov has twice met former U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, in Switzerland and in Moscow, last year. He has also met in Moscow the French, Spanish and West German defence ministers.

'Spying' American diplomat — guilty without trial?

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Senior U.S. diplomat Felix Bloch has been the subject of an extraordinary four days of public scrutiny without being arrested or charged with a single crime.

Bloch was another faceless bureaucrat in the U.S. State Department until last Friday when it was disclosed that the (Federal Bureau of Investigation) FBI was investigating him for "illegal activities" involving "agents of a foreign intelligence service."

Since then, he has been a hounded man, under heavy FBI surveillance at his daughter's home north of New York City, but not arrested. He has been the subject of countless newspaper and television reports which left the impression he

was guilty until proven innocent.

The reports were quick to compare Bloch with Hiss, target of the most famous espionage case involving the State Department. Hiss was suspected of spying for Moscow but insisted he was innocent of espionage. He was convicted in 1950 of lying to Congress about passing secret documents but was never charged or convicted of espionage.

The style in which the Bloch case has been handled seemed the opposite of the normal procedure of arresting an espionage suspect before even considering making a comment about him.

"If he's a deadly spy, why isn't he in jail?" asked former Defence Intelligence Agency chief Daniel Graham. "Usual-

ly, if a man is suspected of espionage, not only is he seized, he is not allowed out on bail. You are held incarcerated until your trial."

Officials have tried to be careful in their public statements about Bloch to avoid the appearance of judging him prematurely. But merely mentioning the case, as President George Bush did Monday, would seem to chip away at Bloch's credibility.

"If a person is... allegedly involved in betraying his country, that to me is a very serious matter," Bush said. "I would not have heard about it. I was aggrieved because it is a very tragic thing should these allegations be true."

Soviet interest The Soviets are showing ex-

traordinary interest in the investigation against Bloch — even tailing him and the FBI to New York — despite a U.S. warning not to interfere.

The unusual Soviet surveillance shows "they have a lot invested in this," said a government source familiar with the case.

The United States cautioned the Soviet Union against trying to smuggle Bloch out of the country, it was learned Monday evening.

Still, Bloch and a caravan of FBI agents were followed by Soviet embassy personnel Saturday from Washington to a New York City suburb, the government source said.

Two U.S. sources said Monday that Bloch had been videotaped handing a briefcase

to a Soviet agent in Paris earlier this year. The U.S. television network ABC reported on a news programme that the same agent later telephoned Bloch to warn him he was under suspicion, saying, "a bad virus is going around and we believe you are infected."

ABC's 'terrible mistake'

ABC News made a "terrible mistake" when it did not clearly label photos shown on its evening news show as a staged reenactment, says an official of the U.S. television network.

The blunder in Friday's "World News Tonight" segment on Bloch might have led some viewers to believe that they were watching videotaped frames of Bloch giving a briefcase to a Soviet agent.

But the network's two still pictures of the transaction were created by ABC News staffers and were not taken from FBI footage of an alleged Bloch encounter with a Soviet agent in Paris, ABC News officials said Monday.

"It was a terrible mistake" not to identify clearly the news simulation as such, Richard Wald, senior vice president of ABC News, said Monday in a telephone interview. "I regret it."

Nonetheless, Wald defended reenactments in general, saying they should be seen as extensions of courtroom sketches.

The ABC simulation lasted about 10 seconds and included two grainy, still shots of one man handing a briefcase to another.

ABC correspondent John McWethy's narration at the time said: "It was not until earlier this year that Bloch was videotaped handing over a briefcase to a known Soviet agent on the streets of a European capital."

The sequence failed to include a "simulation" advisory in the upper left corner of the screen, as is customary, and required practice of the network.

The staged frames were followed by a brief videotape of a street scene, with two men walking across an intersection. The video featured a running time code in the lower right corner and a blinking cross hair, suggesting real surveillance footage. That scene was clearly labelled as a simulation.



Uncertain future... a young Vietnamese refugee boy peers out of his confinement area in Hong Kong

Hong Kong police brutalise refugees

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong police wielding batons beat and injured women, children and old people at a detention camp for Vietnamese boat people, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Boat people later paraded around the camp with posters saying: "Royal Hong Kong police kill Vietnamese refugees."

A 59-year-old man died during Sunday's disturbances at the camp on a disused military airfield. Government officials could not say whether his death was due to the disturbance.

UNHCR sources said witnesses gave detailed accounts of police hitting women, children and old people indiscriminately with batons as they stood near the barbed wire surrounding the tented camp at Sek Kong military base, receiving packages from Vietnamese refugees outside.

"We consider this a matter of grave concern, and we are awaiting a full report," UNHCR chief of mission Robert van Leerwen said Tuesday. "We will be taking this up with the government on the basis of that report."

The Vietnamese outside the wire had full refugee status and are allowed freedom of movement within Hong Kong.

Government refugee coordinator Mike Hanson said: "We have been in contact with the UNHCR and we are taking the incident very seriously. I have no further comment at the moment."

A police report said their command post was attacked by stone-throwing Vietnamese and

they were forced to call in the riot-trained police tactical unit.

UNHCR sources said bloodstains were found at Sek Kong. UNHCR officials and a doctor from the international relief group Medecins sans Frontieres were checking all inmates for injuries.

The sources said investigations showed police held a roll call at the camp and Vietnamese who did not leave their tents quickly enough were beaten, kicked, and shoved.

Aid workers have been concerned for some time about conditions at Sek Kong, which holds 7,200 of the nearly 50,000 Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong.

They say inmates, packed into army tents on an exposed tarmac runway with few facilities, do not receive regular supplies of such basic needs as soap and toothpaste. Temperatures have reached some 35 Centigrade (95 Fahrenheit).

The camp is one of five run by police in the British colony. A force of about 80 men guard it.

Last July, more than 100 Vietnamese complained of being kicked and beaten by prison officers quelling trouble at another detention centre. An inquiry ordered by Hong Kong Governor Sir David Wilson found unnecessary force was used.

Officials and refugee workers have become increasingly concerned about tension in the camps as Britain and Hanoi negotiate over the forced repatriation of Vietnamese Hong Kong considers illegal immigrants.

OAU debates Namibian process

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African leaders met behind closed doors Tuesday to debate Namibia's troubled road to independence, a day after U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar pledged to ensure free and fair elections in the territory.

Clearly trying to calm anxieties over South Africa's role in Namibia's pre-independence polls in November, Perez de Cuellar assured the African leaders that the territory's freedom was irreversible.

South Africa, disputed ruler of Namibia for 74 years, has been accused by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit meeting here and human rights bodies of using the counter-insurgency unit Koevoet to intimidate voters in Namibia to try to rig the elections.

The OAU leaders say Pretoria is intent on denying victory to the Namibian black nationalist group South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), widely tipped to win the polls.

They have urged the United Nations, which is overseeing Namibia's transition to independence under a U.N. Security

Council plan drawn up in 1978, to increase its 4,650 troops there to 7,500 to halt the alleged intimidation.

Perez de Cuellar, who visited Namibia last week, backed the intimidation charges by the African states but said the United Nations was taking measures to prevent electoral fraud.

"The whole international community, after years of yearning for Namibia's independence, is determined that the goal will now be achieved and that the process we have begun must be irreversible," the U.N. secretary-general told the 18 heads of state at the summit, which ends Wednesday.

Perez de Cuellar said he believed steady progress was being made towards a solution of the dispute over the Western Sahara, which prompted Morocco to quit the OAU in 1984 when it admitted the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic which controls part of the former Spanish colony.

Both sides have accepted that a technical commission be set up at the U.N. to work on proposals for a settlement, he said.

Mubarak takes the helm

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, after restoring Egypt to the Arab fold, is setting his sights on helping other African countries settle their disputes.

Booyed by an Arab League decision to reinstate Egypt last May after 10 years in the wilderness for signing a separate peace treaty with Israel, Mubarak scored a diplomatic coup Monday when he was elected OAU chairman.

He immediately committed himself to helping settle what he called current disputes within Africa, but did not elaborate.

"We are all in the same trench, we face the same challenges, we fight the same battles," he said after he was unanimously elected to succeed Mali's President Moussa Traore as OAU chairman.

Addressing the session of the summit, he pledged firm action against South African "aggression" and the economic challenges facing the world's poorest continent.

Ethiopian President Mengistu

Haile Mariam renewed previous OAU appeals for mandatory comprehensive international economic sanctions against South Africa over its apartheid, race policies.

Mengistu played down a "misunderstanding" tensions between Mauritania and Senegal, which resulted from bloody riots in both countries last April, sparked by a border shooting.

There was scant reference to the conflict between Chad and Libya, which have gone to war several times since 1973 when Libya seized the mineral-rich, Aouzou desert strip between the two neighbours.

Talks in Mali last week between Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Chad's President Hissene Habre, designed to resolve their conflict, apparently ended in deadlock.

Speakers voiced concern over Africa's \$230 billion foreign debt. Mengistu said debt servicing swallowed up 40 per cent of foreign trade earnings. If recent trends continued, the debt would more than double to \$550 billion by the year 2000.

Tokyo opposition coordinates action

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's main opposition parties decided Tuesday to submit a bill to abolish an unpopular sales tax which was the main cause of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) stunning defeat in elections last weekend.

The three per cent tax slapped on all consumer goods and services in April angered voters and the LDP lost its majority in the upper house of parliament for the first time since the party was founded 34 years ago, giving the opposition a chance to block LDP-sponsored bills from the lower house and to initiate their own bills.

A spokesman for the Japan Socialist Party (JPS), which scored the biggest gains in Sunday's election, said the bill to abolish the tax would be submitted

to the upper house in an extraordinary session to be convened in late August.

"We are submitting this because all of our parties promised this during the election," said the spokesman.

"The lower house will probably vote against it, so the bill will be sent to a joint committee of both houses where a compromise will be worked out," he added.

The ruling party has continued to defend the sales tax despite the disastrous effect on its political prospects, saying it was essential to ensure stable government revenues into the 21st century.

The centrist Democratic Socialist Party, the Buddhist-backed Komeito, the tiny Social Democratic Federation and the Rengo labour federation will join the socialists in submitting the

bill, the spokesman said.

The tax looks likely to be the main issue in general elections for the more powerful lower house which the LDP may be forced to hold as early as September, political analysts say.

Uno — a 'liability'

The party leadership Tuesday began the search for a replacement to Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, who announced Monday that he would soon quit to take responsibility for the election defeat.

Uno, who was hit with allegations he paid a geisha for sex almost as soon as he took office last month, is now viewed as a political liability by the ruling party.

COLUMN

Roadster sold for \$3 million

MONACO (AP) — A 1934 Mercedes-Benz 500K Special Roadster has sold at auction for more than 19 million francs (\$3 million), Sotheby's announced. The auction house said the sleek black car, sold Sunday night, drew the highest price ever for any item ever auctioned by Sotheby's branch office in Monaco. Sotheby's said a Paris merchant, who was not further identified, paid 19,758,000 francs (\$3.04 million) for the Roadster, including and 11 per cent commission. The pre-sale estimate for the car was for a sale price of about 15 million francs (\$2.3 million).

Jail draws crowds

DUBLIN (AP) — It's not exactly Disneyland, but a new jail and its robot food carts have become so popular with families that a bus-filled sheriff decided to schedule more tours this week. "We've had people with cameras and video cameras. It's amazing to me," said Sheriff's Sergeant Harvey Lewis, who organised the tours of the state-of-the-art facility. The \$174-million Alameda county jail, about 40 kilometres east of San Francisco, will be the sixth-largest county jail in the nation when it opens in September. Sheriff Charles Plummer and his deputies were amazed when more than 6,000 people showed up for free tours offered during two weeks last month. About 2,500 showed up for the first Saturday tour — more than the number who tour the former federal prison on Alcatraz on an average day. The new jail's biggest draw is its high-tech robot carts, which will deliver food and linens throughout the compound. "That's what we wanted to see, the little robots running around," said Jim Sparano, 17. "What's really amazing is that the prisoners deserve so much. I figured it would be like old jail bars and cells. It looks like a hotel."

Ex-cop charged in serial attacks

SYDNEY (AP) — A former police chief who investigated a string of violent sexual assaults against women over the past 20 years appeared in court Tuesday charged with the crimes. Harry "the Hat" Blackburn, 59, one-time head of the scientific squad, wept in Sydney central court when the charges were read. Blackburn, described as "having his finger on the pulse of every major criminal investigation in New South Wales," was charged with six counts of rape, four counts of sexual assault, one count of indecent assault, one count of armed robbery, four counts of abduction and eight counts of kidnapping between 1969 and 1988. Public prosecutor John Brydon told the court it would be alleged that Blackburn forced couples from their cars, sometimes at knifepoint and once with an axe, tied up the males and locked them in the trunk of the car. Blackburn then allegedly drove the cars a short distance where he allegedly raped or sexually assaulted the women. Blackburn, who now works as an investigator for the government, denied the charges. He retired from the force in 1987 after 30 years' service. Assistant police commissioner Tony Lauer said Blackburn's arrest followed the formation of a special task force — code named Operation Photo — to investigate up to 30 serious sexual assaults in Sydney since 1969. He said that during the investigation police discovered Blackburn had never posed for an official police photograph other than his police identification. Lauer did not specify the evidence that led to the arrest.

Global weather

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	18	24	27 Clear
ATHENS	21	30	31 Clear
BAHRAIN	32	39	40 104 Clear
BANGKOK	25	33	35 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	22	28	29 74 Cloudy
CAIRO	22	32	33 91 Clear
CHICAGO	18	26	27 80 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	15	22	23 73 Clear
DENVER	16	24	27 81 Cloudy
GENEVA	14	21	22 72 Clear
HONG KONG	20	28	30 86 Clear
ISTANBUL	23	32	34 Clear
LONDON	18	24	25 77 Clear
LOS ANGELES	19	28	29 84 Clear
MADRID	19	26	27 80 Clear
MECCA	29	34	35 95 Clear
MONTREAL	20	28	30 Clear
MOSCOW	14	21	22 72 Clear
NEW DELHI	29	37	38 100 Cloudy
NEW YORK	21	27	30 Clear
PARIS	15	22	23 73 Clear
ROME	17	26	27 80 Clear
SYDNEY	20	28	29 84 Clear
TEHRAN	28	35	36 97 Cloudy
TOKYO	18	26	27 80 Cloudy

M - indicates missing information.

